



ACTION TO CUT TRAFFIC QUEUES

Report by Heather Large

CAMPAIGNERS fighting for improvements to a traffic-clogged junction in Woodsetton have won a major victory with action planned to solve the jams this summer.

The sequence of traffic lights at the junction of Parkes Hall Road and Sedgley Road will be changed in a bid to reduce tailbacks.

Residents have complained about long queues during rush hours with traffic sometimes stretching back nearly a mile.

When more than one vehicle is waiting to turn right out of Parkes Hall Road, the carriageway becomes blocked as cars travelling straight ahead cannot pass those that are waiting to turn.

In a bid to cut the queuing, the lights will change from having a four-way cycle to a three-way cycle but there will also be a separate right-way only light for motorists coming from Parkes Hall Road.

Councillor Dean Perks, who represents Upper Gornal and Woodsetton, said the junction was 'a regular bottleneck for frustrated motorists'.

The changes will come into force in July when further work to resurface the junction will also take place.

Solution

Councillor Perks said: "Since getting elected last May I've worked to improve the lights at the Bramford. It's now been agreed the lights cycle will be changed to three way in July the same as those at the top of Eve Lane.

These improvements are a simple solution to a long-standing issue. I am glad that our common sense suggestion for a three-way cycle is to be introduced."

Earlier this year, work was completed to upgrade a crossing on Sedgley Road following a campaign by residents. They had been battling for action for nearly two years, raising a petition containing around 500 signatures.

Work took place in January to install flashing LEDs to columns on the zebra crossing near Mount Tabor church to increase visibility to motorists.

Metal 'halos' equipped with flashing lights were installed around the orange beacons as an additional measure. Other measures include markings and anti-skid surfacing around the crossing.

Councillors said replacing the zebra crossing with a pelican crossing, allowing pedestrians to stop traffic with the push of a button, remained an option.

Residents launched the campaign after complaints motorists were not stopping at the crossing – even when pedestrians had already started to cross.

SISTERS IN HARMONY TO HELP HOSPITAL WARD



Kayla, left, and Soumia 'Sonny' Turner at Noise Recordings in Waterloo Road, Wolverhampton, where they recorded their song

THE pain of dealing with their mother's cancer has inspired two sisters to write and record a song to raise money for her hospital ward.

Soumia and Kayla Turner, aged 16 and 14 respectively, have written the house music track Tell Me Why in aid of the Georgina ward at Russells Hall hospital in Dudley.

The teenagers, who live in Wombourne, decided to help the ward to show their gratitude for the support they had received from staff as their mother Jane Campbell battles breast cancer.

Soumia, who goes by the nickname Sonny, said: "It is about misunderstanding and confusion and only being able to express your feelings through song."

"We want to raise as much as we can for the hospital and we have not really put a figure on it."

After coming up with the idea for the song, they approached their uncle Alan Campbell. He helped them to pen the tune, which they then took to Chris Meddings at Noise Recording Studio in Waterloo Road, Wolverhampton. He was able to create the dance music track.

Soumia said their mother's cancer had dominated their lives over the past year.

"We have had a lot of support from all of the staff at the ward," she said. "They understood our problems and have been really supportive to us during the last year."

"I was doing my GCSEs when she was diagnosed, which hit me really hard, but the support from the hospital has made it a lot easier to cope."

Both girls attend Highfields School in Wolverhampton. Their song has been available on iTunes since May 1.

PLANNING

Fire-hit pub is to make way for shop

A FIRE-GUTTED pub which has been branded an eyesore will be demolished and a shop and six flats built in its place.

The Hill Tavern in Watsons Green Road, Dudley, has repeatedly been targeted by vandals since it closed four years ago.

Dudley Council has now given the go-ahead to plans to breathe fresh life into the site. The convenience store will be in the ground floor of the new building, with the flats above it.

The developer said the building needed to be knocked down because it had become an 'eyesore' and was beyond repair.

DEMOLITION

It's the last rites for St Luke's church

A CHURCH forced to close due to a six-figure restoration bill will be demolished under new plans.

St Luke's Church, in Cradley Heath, closed after almost 170 years of worship in October because of escalating repair costs, estimated at £750,000, with the congregation moving their services to St John's Church, in Dudley Wood.

Rev Alicia Baker said it was disappointing that the church had to be demolished but there was little alternative.

WORK

Army helping the jobless to get skills

THE unemployed are being drilled in how to prepare themselves for the world of work courtesy of a course run by the Army.

B Squadron of The Royal Yeomanry in Dudley is running the 10-day course aimed at the jobless to help boost their self-esteem, confidence and employability. The course is called Midlands Supporting People into Employment with the Army Reserve.

It started on Monday and runs until May 22 and is being held at the Army Reserve Centre at Vicar Street, Dudley, with some of the activities at Swynnerton Army Training Area, RAF Cosford and Himley Hall.

INSIDE

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PAGE 23



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CONTENTS	
MARK ANDREWS	6
LETTERS	7
CLUBS	8
ELECTION RESULTS	18
FAST TICKET	23
PROPERTY	31
MOTORING	37
SPORT	47 & 48
CONTACT US	

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Serial thief of cars and fuel is jailed

A THIEF who stole cars and petrol from across the Black Country has been locked up.

Jamie Brookes, 27, fitted stolen licence plates to vehicles before targeting garages throughout the region in nine raids last year. The father-of-three pinched petrol and diesel worth £720 between July and September at stations in Oldbury and Great Bridge as well as Quinton, Great Barr and other places in Birmingham.

Even when Brookes was arrested on suspicion of theft on September 22, he went out the very next day

to strike again. He was jailed for 18 months at Wolverhampton Crown Court.

Brookes was in a stolen Citroen when he and an accomplice drove to NJC Motors in Smethwick to steal an Astra valued at more than £6,000. He claimed he was carrying out the thefts on someone else's instructions and was being paid each time.

Brookes, of Poplar Road, Bearwood, was also convicted for six counts relating to driving without insurance and a licence for which he was disqualified from driving for two

years. He appeared at the sentencing hearing via video-link from HMP Hewell in Worcestershire. He had been given a nine-week prison term for separate petrol theft offences last year.

Judge Amjad Nawaz said it 'begs belief' that magistrates chose to sentence Brookes for those crimes instead of sending the matter to crown court for all the offences to be dealt with together.

He added: "When you were arrested you went out the next day and committed the same offence. That

shows you are somebody who simply will not comply with any order given to you. The sheer volume of your offending means there is no other option than an immediate custodial sentence."

Jasuir Mann, defending, said Brookes had left school without any qualifications and had found it hard to keep down steady employment. The barrister added: "He is a man easily led by others and by the age of 27 he should have sufficient backbone to say to these people he no longer wants to associate with them."

Midwife gets caution for accessing records

A MIDWIFE will not be struck off – despite accessing the medical records of more than 22 people to find out which one of her colleagues was pregnant.

Naomi Fletcher began spying on her colleagues' blood records at Russells Hall Hospital when she heard a rumour that one of them was carrying a baby.

The midwife gave herself away when she told a co-worker she knew she was pregnant as she had browsed her file. But she has escaped a ban following a Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) hearing.

Fletcher, who now works at New Cross Hospital in Wolverhampton, was investigated where it was discovered she had inappropriately read through the confidential records of colleagues, patients and family.

Those investigations revealed she had accessed the files of 22 colleagues, patients, an ex-partner, and members of her own family in May and June 2013.

Fletcher was given a three-year caution at the hearing, which she did not attend.

Fletcher was suspended from duty while an investigation was carried out.

The inquiry discovered that she had entered the names of 19 members of staff during one night shift and examined the blood records for eight.

Admitted

There were other incidents when she had done the same, including looking at records of her mother, ex-husband, ex-partner and her own children. Fletcher admitted the charges.

NMC panel chair Stephen Barker said: "The panel acknowledged that Ms Fletcher is currently working as a midwife and no further issues or concerns have been raised since the incidents which occurred in 2013.

"It accepts that Ms Fletcher has demonstrated insight into her misconduct and remorse for her actions, as evidenced in her reflective statement and had regard to two positive references from her current employers.

"Ms Fletcher's misconduct is considered to be at the lower end of the spectrum of impaired fitness to practice."

Fletcher worked at Russells Hall Hospital from October 2011 to October 2013.

VE Day celebrated in style at museum



Pete Collins of Oldbury and Penny Phillips from Birmingham at the VE Day party at the Black Country Living Museum

CELEBRATIONS marking the 70th anniversary of Victory in Europe in the Second World War continued through the weekend. The streets of the Black Country were decorated with bunting and marked with song and dance.

Just as the whole of England came together to mark the defeat of Nazi Germany on May 8, 1945, a new generation paid tribute to those who lost their lives.

One major event to mark the VE Day anniversary was at the Black

Country Living Museum in Dudley where soldiers and a Winston Churchill actor celebrated the anniversary in 1940s uniforms and fashions.

Speeches

A street party and stirring speeches entertained a crowd of 1,500 people to mark the special occasion.

Re-enactors gave the VE Day commemorations a taste of 1945 and families enjoyed the street

party, while Winston Churchill look-alike Robert Burns from Walsall recited Sir Winston's speeches word for word.

A US army base was set up with weapons, ammunition crates and tents so people could see what our Allies from across the Atlantic were like.

Spam fritters were on sale in the fish and chip shop, with the streets of the Tipton Road museum were filled with bunting and vintage cars took to the cobbled streets.

Planners to look at £3m performing arts college

PLANS for a £3 million performing arts centre at Halesowen College will go before councillors next week.

It is the latest stage of a revamp at the site, with £20m being invested in replacing buildings.

The centre will provide teaching rooms and rehearsal space for students on music, drama and dance courses.

The college has been struggling to provide enough space for the growing number of students taking performing arts courses.

Some currently having to travel off campus to use facilities at Benjamins, a function hall in the town centre.

The new complex was due to be connected to other buildings at the Whittingham Road site by a glass walkway, which the college had hoped to use as an exhibition space and break area for students.

But fire officers at Dudley Council said as the link way would be the main escape route for the block, it would need to be left clear, putting a stop to the college's plans.

Revised designs have been submitted for a stand alone complex after bosses said they would not be able to use the glazed walk way as they had hoped.

Councillors have previously supported the scheme – despite dozens of objections from people living near the college who feared surrounding roads will become further clogged with cars.

A decision will be made on the revised plans at a meeting of Dudley Council's planning committee on Monday.

Coal mine concern raised over homes

PLANS to provide affordable housing at a former archive centre have been approved despite concerns about the possible risk from mine workings.

Dudley councillors raised concerns after the Coal Authority had said in consultations that a risk assessment had not been performed at the former Dudley Archives Centre in Cosoley.

The buildings on the site were originally built as a school in the Victorian era, was later used for the borough archives but has stood empty since October 2013.

The plan is to convert the site in Mount Pleasant Street, Cosoley, into 15 houses.

Planning officer Pete Reed said a condition could be applied requiring a risk assessment to be carried out.

More than 60 boats at pumphouse rally

A BOAT rally will be taking place this weekend when more than 60 boats gather at Birmingham Canal Navigation Society's HQ at Tipton Pumphouse in Oldbury. On Saturday and Sunday there will be boat trips on the canal. The event is from 11am until 4pm on both days.

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Three are acquitted of attempt to murder

THREE young men accused of attacking a man with baseball bat have been cleared of attempted murder.

A jury cleared Kasim Ali, aged 20, and two 17-year-old boys, who cannot be named for legal reasons, who were accused of attempting to murder 37-year-old father Tariq Mahmood.

They were also accused of attacking his 19-year-old stepson Ajmal Choudhary outside the pair's Dudley home in August. Mr Mahmood's serious injuries meant part of his skull had to be removed.

Following a two-week trial, a jury found Ali, of Aston Road, Dudley, and one of the teenagers not guilty on three charges — attempted murder, causing grievous bodily harm with intent, and assault occasioning actual bodily harm.

The other teenager was found not guilty of attempted murder and assault occasioning actual bodily harm.

After further deliberation, the jury found the teenager not guilty of causing grievous bodily harm with intent but guilty of the lesser charge of causing grievous bodily harm. He is due to be sentenced on June 5.

The court heard there had been a dispute between Mr Choudhary and one of the youths on social media website Instagram.

Prosecutor Mr Robert Pricetold the court that one of the teenagers had swung a baseball bat in the direction of Mr Choudhary, as his stepfather tried to intervene. Mr Ali said he had been attacked by Mr Choudhary when he visited the house in Hillcrest Road.

TV presenter at Songsters' concert

TELEVISION presenter Philippa Tomson, who is from Stourbridge, will be the compere for a Kingswinford choir's concert on Saturday.

The Gentlemen Songsters Male Voice Choir will be performing at Dudley Town Hall at 7.30pm. The Songsters' special guests will be the Cradley Heath-based choir Voices In Harmony, formerly known as The Sandwell Community Choir.

Philippa Tomson is a former chief reporter with the Express & Star who began her career in journalism on the Dudley Chronicle. She has also presented weather forecasts for Daybreak and GMTV.

Tickets for the concert are £10 and are available by calling the ticket hotline on 01746 763850.

TOWIE stars at shopping centre

STARS of The Only Way is Essex will be at Merry Hill on Saturday. Lauren Pope, Lydia Bright, Fearnie McCann and Georgia Kousoulou visit the Brierley Hill centre to launch the Only Way is Marbs fragrance at 2.30pm.

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Threat to bury pig at mosque site

THE leader of a far-right group threatened to bury a pig on the proposed site of a controversial mosque to religiously 'contaminate' the ground.

Britain First leader Paul Golding led 150 protesters through Dudley, where they were heckled by locals during the march.

The group targeted the town to 'show solidarity' over plans for a large mosque in Hall Street.

But Mr Golding said: "That mosque has not been constructed yet and I can tell you now it won't be. "In previous cases like Seville in Spain, patriots, local residents, have buried pigs on the land. Contrary to what it says in the Koran, you can't build on swine-infested, contaminated land. "We will take that action if necessary."

His members chanted 'Britain First fighting back' and held Union Flags aloft before coming to a halt at the borough's Council House.

Peaceful

The protest was largely peaceful, although police intervened on a few occasions.

But some people in the town centre made their feelings towards the group clear as they passed, telling them to leave Dudley, while some were visibly upset by anti-Islam speeches that were made on Saturday.

Police made no arrests and Britain First left after only a couple of hours. Around 100 officers had been drafted in to manage the march.

A counter demonstration was also held by anti-fascism groups, while a handful of military veterans confronted members of Britain First.

The roads in Dudley town centre remained open during the day and the march did not have the sort of negative trade impact the EDL's protest did in February. Dudley Council offered free parking in the town centre to encourage shoppers on Saturday.

Dudley Council chief executive Sarah Norman said that Britain First's visit would have no bearing on the ongoing High Court proceedings in relation to proposals for a mosque.

"Britain First can add nothing to the council's discussions in relation to the Dudley Muslim Association's proposed mosque in Hall Street," she added.

More needs to be done to tackle knife crime

MORE than half of all knife crime recorded in the West Midlands over the last four years remains unsolved.

Blades were used in hundreds of robberies, rapes and attacks across the region, as well as in high-profile murder cases such as those of Halesowen schoolgirl Christina Edkins and factory worker Tom Kirwan.

A Freedom of Information request has revealed that of the 10,140 knife crimes reported to West Midlands Police between 2010 and 2014 — 6,231 remain unsolved. A total of 3,909 cases were solved by officers in that time.

The family and friends of victims say more should be done to address the problem.

Jade Elwell, whose 23-year-old fiancé Tom Kirwan was stabbed to death outside a Wolverhampton nightclub, said: "I hope someone can see these figures and realise that it is time to do something serious before it is too late."

Chris Melia, great uncle of knife victim Christina Edkins, said: "The man who killed Christina is now locked up but that doesn't solve the issue for us. He was only at large due to the failings of people in the health service and prison service. It was a needless death and work needs to be done to ensure this never happens again."

Detective Chief Inspector Kath Davis, West Midlands Police's chief officer for knife crime, said the possession of blades 'would not be tolerated'. She said: "West Midlands Police has invested heavily in campaigns and operations to tackle knife crime across the region over the past 10 years, which has led to a significant decrease over time in the number of offences recorded."

Fallen

"Since 2006 the number of offences has fallen dramatically and, despite an increase of around 150 offences between 2012 and 2014, we are now back on track to see a significant decrease in offending over the past year. Currently we are looking at a 116 fewer offences compared to the same period last year, which amounts to a 7.7 per cent decrease.

"As a direct response to listening to community requests, the Police and Crime Commissioner and Birmingham City Council launched the knife surrender last year, which we supported, seeing eight bins launched across Birmingham and Wolverhampton to reduce the number of bladed weapons on our streets.

"This campaign continues alongside significant resources ploughed into educating youngsters about the dangers of carrying a knife."

Tom, a 23-year-old Wolves fan on a night out at Wolverhampton's former Uberba club, was murdered in 2012. It is still not known who struck the fatal wound, even though five people were locked up last year for their part in a street brawl during the lead-up to his death. His 24-year-old fiancée Jade Elwell has been campaigning on knife crime ever since.

Schoolgirl Christina Edkins was killed in 2013 during a motiveless knife attack on a Birmingham bus. The 16-year-old was studying for her GCSEs at Leasowes High School in Halesowen. She was murdered by paranoid schizophrenic, Phillip Simelane from Walsall. He is detained indefinitely.



The Birmingham bus on which Christina Edkins was stabbed to death by Phillip Simelane



Halesowen schoolgirl Christina Edkins



Christina Edkins' great uncle, Chris Melia

NEWS IN BRIEF

Best of British is choir's inspiration

A MIXED voice choir with 70 members is tuning up for a concert in Cradley Heath this weekend.

Viva Musica will be performing at the Salvation Army Citadel on Saturday.

The theme is British composers of contemporary choral music, and will include pieces ranging from John Rutter and Karl Jenkins to Paul McCartney and Elton John.

Tickets cost £9 available by calling 01562 883480 or 0121 550 5581. For details visit www.viva-musica.co.uk website or the choir's Facebook page.

Authors book in for talks at library

THREE authors will be visiting Dudley to share their enthusiasm for reading.

The Readers' Afternoon event takes place on Saturday between 1 and 4pm at the Archives and Local History Centre on Tipton Road.

Birmingham-born Fiona Joseph has written a biography of Beatrice Cadbury and a novel about Cadbury workers. Samantha Hayes from Warwickshire writes thrillers and Bewdley author Robert Ronsson's second novel is Out of Such Darkness.

Tickets are £5. Call (01384) 812770.

Talk on monarch found in car park

KING Richard III will be in the spotlight during Stourbridge Historical Society's next meeting.

Historian Max Keen will be giving a talk about the monarch's life and the discovery of his body buried under a Leicester car park in September 2012.

It will take place in the Wollaston Room at Stourbridge Town Hall on May 21 at 7.30pm.

For more details visit the website www.stourbridgehistoricalsociety.com

Housing plan for site of former warehouse

FOURTEEN homes will be built on the site of a former warehouse in Stourbridge.

Tim Warrington has lodged proposals to demolish the derelict building on Careless Green to make way for the development of three and four bedroom homes.

The warehouse has been empty since 2010, bosses said.

The scheme will be considered by Dudley Council with a decision expected within the next three months.

Homes scheme at pub

A SCHEME for 14 homes on the site of a former pub in Kingswinford has won the support of planning officers.

The Summerhouse in The Portway would make way for the development of two, three and four-bedroom houses after an application by Yetti Bar (UK) Ltd.

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THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



COLUMNIST and curmudgeon Rod Liddle draws our attention to a survey which suggests women do not notice men over 50. Thank heavens. I thought it was just me.

QUOTES for our time. "If it wasn't for the riots we wouldn't have got this far." Black youth on the streets of Baltimore speaking to the BBC after six policemen were charged following the death of a black suspect. Or, to put it another way, rioting works.

TOLD you so. A couple of years ago, as gay marriage was being rushed on to the statute book, I suggested that once the tradition of man + woman had been broken, there was really no reason why marriage should not include all sorts of relationships. A few days ago, the gay website Pink News put the question of threesomes to the Green Party leader Natalie Bennett and this is what she said: "We have led the way on many issues related to the liberalisation of legal status in adult consenting relationships, and we are open to further conversation and consultation." In other words, start planning the three-way reception now. A MetroNews poll in response revealed, at the time of writing, 42 per cent support for three-way marriages and civil partnerships. How quickly attitudes change. It is striking how those Pink News readers who fervently defend two-person marriages now come across as reaction-ary fuddy-duddies.

I SENSED there would be trouble



when the new World Snooker Champion Stuart Bingham reflected on the pure hell of getting to the top. What did the title mean to him? "Everything," replied the champ. "Twenty years as a pro. Blood, sweat, and tears, on the road, qualifying in places like Prestatyn and Malvern - places like that." Sure enough, the Mayor of Prestatyn has duly taken offence and publicly declared: "We, the residents, are very proud of our town." I dare say you are, Madam Mayor. But we all know exactly what Bingham was talking about, the separation, isolation and misery of staying in sterile, lookalike hotels in towns you don't know: the loneliness of the long-distance potter. Instead of the mayor going all hurt and defensive, how about doing something imaginative? Like offering Stuart Bingham the freedom of Prestatyn.

WHILE we all loved the suspense, does anyone seriously believe that the gender of the royal baby and her name were not known well in advance? The Royal Family is not a real family but an extremely slick marketing and investment corporation. And I bet the name Charlotte was agreed weeks ago.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Apartments for over-55s snapped up

MORE than half of the apartments at a new £16million retirement village - built on the site of the former Cradley High School - have been snapped up.

Lime Gardens, which has 120 homes for the over 55s, welcomed its first residents three weeks ago.

Among the facilities are a gym, games and hobby rooms and a coffee shop.

There are also woodland and garden areas and a greenhouse.

John Millar, housing boss at Dudley Council, said: "This is the third extra care scheme that we've developed in partnership with Midland Heart, and represents the future of housing for older people. It really is first class, both in terms of the physical build, quality of care and the fantastic range of facilities on offer."

Matt Colloby, of developers William Davis Limited said: "The Lime Gardens development is a classic example of collaborative working. Everyone involved should be very proud of their achievements."

Confident

Ruth Cooke, chief executive at Midland Heart said: "We have a great staff team, great facilities and

I'm confident our customers will be very happy here in a safe, secure environment."

It's the third development of its kind in Dudley from Midland Heart, following similar schemes on the Russells Hall estate and in Cosely. The scheme, which has created 60 jobs, is designed for people aged over 55 to live independently in their own apartments.

Labour clings on to power amid Tory gains

By Heather Large

LABOUR has retained its grip on Dudley Council but saw its majority fall as the Conservatives increased their share of the seats.

The Labour group now has 38 seats on the council - four fewer than before - with deputy leader and finance boss Stuart Turner the most high profile casualty.

He lost his spot to former councillor leader Anne Millward who was ousted from the Gornal seat by Mr Turner by just two votes in 2011.

It was one of five seats won by the Tories bringing their total up to 25, which Tory leader Councillor Patrick Harley said they would continue build on in future.

UKIP was unable to add to its seven seats and the Green party also failed to win anything, meaning it remains with one councillor.

One of the only two independent seats on the council turned blue with Conservative Jeff Hill taking the seat left vacant by retiring councillor Ken Turner.

There had been 24 seats up for grabs across the borough.

Mixed

Council leader Pete Lowe admitted there had been 'a mixed bag' of results for Labour and said he believed the Dudley group has been 'adversely affected by the General Election picture'.

"I'm pleased we remain in overall control of the council but we have lost some very good councillors," he added.

Councillor Harley said he was pleased with the gains made. "They have been fantastic results nationally and we have had some good results in Dudley," he said.

Conservative Tina Westwood was able to secure her father David Caunt's Sedgley seat after he stood down before the election. Among Labour councillors celebrating was cabinet member for health Rachel Harris who kept her Brierley Hill seat.

● Results - see page 18

Mayor marks VE Day with veterans



Mayor of Dudley Councillor Margaret Aston chats with veteran Gordon Willetts, 88, from The Broadway

MEMORIES of VE Day came flooding back when the Mayor of Dudley welcomed military veterans for a special event to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the end of hostilities in Europe.

The 25 ex-service personnel enjoyed tea and cakes with Mayor Margaret Aston in her parlour. Music from the 1940s played as the former servicemen from the Royal British Legion and Royal Air Force Association reminisced. Councillor Aston paid tribute to forces personnel, describing them as 'outstanding.'

She said: "In this borough we are very proud to be one of the first local authorities to sign the community covenant to support the work of our armed forces past and present."

Gordon Willetts, aged 88, was one of the servicemen attending the tea and cake event last week, having served with the Worcestershire Regiment in India. He remembered the end of the war in Europe as he was with his regiment in Wales, having returned from India.

Mr Willetts, who lives in The Broadway, Dudley, said: "The Army took us all on a day out to Tenby to celebrate the end of the war. It was wonderful because we knew what everybody had gone through."

John Deane, 78, of Maygrove Road, Kingswinford, joined the RAF in 1955 and was an eight-year-old on VE Day. He recalled a bonfire in the street and fireworks display in Laurel Crescent. He added: "It was an atmosphere of celebration and excitement."

Grants to warm more properties in borough

FAMILIES can apply for a share of a £164,000 cash pot to help keep their homes warm.

Dudley Council has received the funding from the Government's Fuel Poverty Health Booster Fund. It can be used to have new central heating boilers installed, loft and cavity wall insulation and draught proofing fitted.

To apply for the funding people must live in Dudley borough, own their home, be in receipt of certain benefits and have a member of the household that has a long term health condition.

Concern

John Millar, Dudley Council's acting strategic director for economy, environment and housing, said: "Fuel Poverty and health conditions made worse from living in a cold home are a real concern in Dudley, and something we have been working very hard to address."

"We are thrilled to receive this funding from Department for Energy and Climate Change, it will have a real impact for some of Dudley's most vulnerable residents to help them achieve an affordable warmer home."

Those wanting to apply for the funding people should contact the council's Dudley Energy Advice Line on (01384) 817086. Staff offer a home visit where they will discuss heating and insulation measures, grants available and qualifying criteria for the free funding.

Passenger attacks train conductor

POLICE are appealing for information after a train conductor was assaulted by a passenger.

The attack happened on a service going from Wolverhampton to Walsall when it stopped at Cosely Railway Station.

The conductor suffered minor injuries but did not require hospital treatment. British Transport Police have launched an investigation into the attack.

Spokesman Kit Bradshaw said: "We were called to Cosely Railway Station shortly before 3.15pm on Thursday following reports that a member of train staff had been assaulted. Enquiries are ongoing."

Anyone with information is asked to contact British Transport Police on 0800 405040.

Focus on everyday Black Country life

EVERYDAY life in the Black Country is on display at Wolverhampton Art Gallery from May 23 to August 22. It is showing the work of photographer Martin Parr who has spent four years capturing scenes in Wolverhampton, Dudley, Sandwell and Walsall.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Future of health services on agenda

PEOPLE in Dudley will be able to hear about plans to improve health services across the borough.

Dudley Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) will hold its board meeting today (Thursday).

Members will be discussing a range of issues regarding healthcare in the borough and residents are being invited to attend.

The meeting will take place in the boardroom at Brierley Hill Health and Social Care Centre in Venture Way, Brierley Hill, from 1pm to 4pm.

Nearly new sale by child charity

PARENTS can get bargains at a nearly new sale of baby and children's clothes being held in Quarry Bank on Saturday.

It has been organised by children's charity NCT Stourbridge and Halesowen branch.

Visitors to the sale could save around 70 per cent on what items cost bought new.

As well as clothes, there will be toys and equipment at the event at Thorns Leisure Centre from 11am to 1pm, with early entry at 10.30am for NCT members.

Vintage fair for fashion and vinyl

A VINTAGE fair will take place in Stourbridge on Saturday from 11am to 4pm.

Stalls selling clothes, fashion accessories, homeware, crafts and vinyl records will fill St Thomas' Church in Market Street at Kiki & Honey's Vintage and Retro fair.

There will also be a charity stall for Mary Stevens Hospice. Meanwhile, the Cakehole will be serving home-baked refreshments. Entry will cost 50p, children admitted free.

Dance is for Dementia Awareness Week drive

THE Alzheimer's Society is holding a special event in Dudley as part of Dementia Awareness Week, which begins on Sunday.

The sing-along and tea dance is taking place in The Station Hotel in Castle Hill on Wednesday, May 20, from 2pm to 4pm.

Admission will be free for all people who are aged over 50.

To book a place at the dance, contact Carol Bowsher on 0121 521 3020.

Underground ukuleles

THE Sedgley Ukulele Strummers will be giving an underground concert in Dudley next month. The group will be performing for Dudley Canal Trust in the Singing Cavern on June 20. Tickets are £10.80 and the boat departs from the trust's site off Birmingham New Road at 7pm. Call 0121 5576265.

Hundreds of jobs may go at hospitals to save £16m

MORE than 200 jobs face are at risk at Sandwell's hospital trust during the next 12 months, as part of plans to slash more than £16 million from the wages bill.

It's the next phase of wider plans by Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals Trust to cut around 1,400 posts over five years.

Bosses are looking to scrap 205 'whole time equivalent' positions by March 2016 but say around 260 workers are expected to be affected by the move.

A consultation is under way and it's hoped that a 'significant' number of the posts can be cut by redeploying staff or not recruiting for vacant roles.

The trust, which runs Sandwell Hospital and City Hospital, has already redeployed 150 workers to other roles since first announcing its plans last year.

Despite looking at reducing its pay bill, the hospital trust has vowed to continue investing in more A&E consultants and nurses.

A report by chief executive Toby Lewis, which went before directors of the trust's board, says: "A statutory consultation process will commence for affected staff groups. Circa 260 staff will be affected by the changes proposed. A significant amount of posts will be released through the disestablishment of vacant posts and re-deployment."

The plans will reduce the trust's pay bill by £16.1m.

It comes after NHS inspectors declared that Sandwell and West

Play week target more than 5,000

DUDLEY Council is looking to top the 5,000 participant mark at Dudley Play Week, from August 3 to 7.

There will be free activities run from noon to 4pm in the following borough parks: Huntingtree Park, Halesowen, August 3; Silver Jubilee Park, Coseley, August 4; Wollescote Park, August 5; Priory Park, Dudley, August 6 and The Dell and Fens Pool, Brierley Hill, August 7.

Activities for children will include a climbing wall, arts and crafts, face painting and an animal area.

Organisations interested in getting involved are invited to meetings on June 19 and July 16 at Saltwells Education Centre, Netherton, from 10am to noon. Contact Keith Rogers on (01384) 813828.

Choir in concert for cancer charity

SEDGLEY'S Beacon Community Choir is performing a concert in aid of Cancer Research in the Mill Theatre at the Dormston Centre in Mill Bank on May 21 at 7.30pm. Tickets at £5 are available by calling 07522 577285.

Nearly 300 homes on way at old quarry

NEARLY 300 homes will be built on a disused quarry in the Black Country under a 30-year blueprint to transform the site.

A huge waste management facility would also be built on the site of the Edwin Richards Quarry in Rowley Regis, if the scheme goes ahead.

FCC Environment is leading the project to transform the quarry, which has lain dormant for more than ten years.

The firm claims it is offering a 'realistic and deliverable restoration' of the site.

It is hoped the homes will be built by the beginning of the next decade but the overall project could take up to 30 years.

It would also include a major waste facility site

and gas utilisation plant, plus a waste vehicle depot would also be built.

The company hopes the quarry will eventually be turned into a green space for use by residents.

Regenerate

The proposed development would regenerate the land and provide an extension for Rowley Regis, bosses add.

The 281 homes would be built on the southern end of the site.

FCC said it was not 'practical, sustainable or desirable' to leave the site as it is.

In a statement, it said: "The site as it stands presents health and safety management issues in terms

of public access and has limited end-use to the wider public."

A design and access statement submitted with the plans stated: "The new homes will create a cohesive neighbourhood that will be well connected to, and integrated with, existing residential areas and can take advantage of local services in the immediate area, at Lion Farm and in nearby Blackheath centre."

"The scheme will enable the phased delivery of high-quality market homes with local play areas, informal open space and sustainable urban drainage systems, creating a landscape and ecological framework that retains valued natural features and links the site to the wider green network and footpaths."

Road widening sparks concerns and praise

SHOPKEEPERS and residents near a busy high street have spoken of their concern they could be forced to make way for a £6.3 million road widening scheme.

Plans have been unveiled to carry out improvements along a section of Pensnett High Street, including the widening of the junction with High Oak and the demolition of a row of shops and homes.

An extra lane would be added to the High Street to alleviate traffic congestion.

However, the people with homes and businesses hit by the move claimed they have been left 'in limbo' by a lack of information.

They want to know from the council what will happen to their properties and whether they will receive compensation.

Nick Austin, who runs Austin's Barber Shop in High Oak, said a move out of his locality would risk losing up to half of his customers who were local 'walk-in' trade.

His business has been trading for six years and he has hundreds of customers.

He said: "I am not overly happy about it but there is not a lot I can do about it. I will just have to find another job."

A tenant in Pensnett High Street, who did not wish to be named, said: "I don't really want to have to move, but if they do go ahead with the scheme then I have not really got much option."

But Denise Huxley, whose home is also set for demolition, described the plans as "absolutely wonderful" saying she wanted to move away from the home she had owned and lived in for 37 years because of the increasing levels of traffic and noise in the High Street.

She said the problems had mounted since the Merry Hill shopping centre opened in 1985 and claimed that residents had first proposed the road being widened 20 years ago.

Traffic lights would be introduced on junctions at both High Oak and Tansey Green Road. The widening of the junction with High Oak would see the adjoining Bradley Street closed to through traffic.

The council would use a compulsory purchase order to buy land either side of the road to allow for it to be widened.

The work will take a year and could start in January 2017.

It comes on the back of a consultation last year which saw people back the dual carriage-way scheme.

Service still popular 30 years on



Library assistants Amanda Baker and Louise Marsh with information online and in leaflet form

AN INFORMATION service provided by libraries in Dudley borough is still proving to be popular with residents — 30 years after it was set up.

Dudley Community Information Directory began at Stourbridge Library in 1985 with a collection of books and leaflets but since then it has developed via the digital age to include an online community information directory, which last year had more

than 130,000 visits from people seeking advice.

Dudley libraries continue to stock 260 different leaflets and last year dealt with more than 45,000 requests for information.

Deborah Harkins, chief officer for libraries, said: "This fantastic service has continued to grow and is offered online and at all 13 borough libraries."

"Other local authorities have visited Dudley to look at our suc-

cessful online service as we cover such an extensive range of topics.

"Even though so much information is now available online, we continue to receive thousands of requests for leaflets from people such as students and those wanting tourist information."

"Dudley Community Information Directory is for everyone and we are encouraging more people to use it and add details of their group and events."

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IN MY VIEW
with Mark Andrews

Why defeat at election is difficult to swallow

IMMEDIATELY after the BBC exit poll predicted that the Liberal Democrats were on course to lose dozens of seats at the General Election, former party leader Paddy Ashdown responded: "If this exit poll is right, I will publicly eat my hat."

Not to be outdone, former Labour spin doctor Alastair Campbell announced he would eat his kilt.

So, given that we all know that politicians never break their promises, we can all look forward to a lot of clothes-eating over the coming few days.

Although in the case of Mr Campbell, I do make one request.

Yes I know what the old Scottish tradition is, but on this occasion nobody will hold it against you if you choose to break with convention.

Please, please Alastair, make sure you wear some underpants.

ONE of the strangest, and most poignant scenes of the past few days was watching the VE Day service on Friday, where Prime Minister David Cameron joined soon-to-be-ex party leaders Nick Clegg and Ed Miliband, as well as Democratic Unionist leader Peter Robinson and the SNP's Nicola Sturgeon in laying their wreaths at the cenotaph.

What did these people say to one another? Just hours before, they had been fighting to the bitter end for their differing objectives, and using some pretty colourful imagery along the way.

And there they were, all facing very different futures after the public had delivered its verdict, and in two cases representing their political parties for the very last time.

I actually found it rather touching, and will confess to a little grudging respect to Messrs Miliband and Clegg for conducting themselves with such dignity.

It can't have been easy appearing so publicly with their opponents after such an uncomfortable night.

But serves as a reminder of how fortunate we are to live in a country where political opponents will graciously put on a united front when it comes to honouring our dead.

When it comes to having a pop at the political classes, I love to have a pop as much as the next man, but we are all very privileged that we have the freedom to do that.

Seventy years ago, Britain celebrated a triumph of freedom and democracy over narrow authoritarianism, of free and robust debate over intimidation and suppression.

Whatever your views on the outcome of the election, we should all be grateful that we had the opportunity to take part in it.

And acknowledge the role of those brave soldiers who ensured it was possible.



Iwona Stachura sorts out the stock at Cash4Clothes



Staff sift through clothes brought in by Chris Haynes



The Cash4Clothes unit in Hollies Park Road, Cannock

Cash in on clothes to join a growing trend

An entrepreneur has fashioned a recycling initiative which is now becoming big business.
MARION BRENNAN reports

"PEOPLE try little tricks, like wetting the clothes so that they weigh more, but mostly customers are fine. We get all sorts of labels, from Primark to Armani. We're only concerned that they're wearable."

So says Christian Farnell, chief executive of Cash4Clothes which now has 30 outlets across the UK, mainly in the Midlands, in the ever-growing textile recycling industry.

Charity shops, eBay, textile banks – today there are more ways than ever to get rid of your unwanted clothes, and the newest trend, which sees people getting paid for their cast-offs, is now big business.

In 12 months Cash4Clothes has paid out more than £3 million to the public for their unwanted garments. In Cannock alone in the last four years that figure is £5.5m.

"It's a very big business and it employs a lot of people in different countries," says the 31-year-old, of Willenhall, a former Great Wyrley High School and Cannock College student.

Truckloads

The company pays 50p a kilogram for textiles, which generally works out at a fiver a bin bag, which it then sells on to customers in Eastern Europe. One trader in the Czech Republic has 12 shops, another has 11 stores in Poland and Slovenia. Around 16 truckloads, each with 18 tons of clothes aboard, leave their HQ in the Hollies Business Park, Cannock every month headed for the continent.

At the end of the journey, the East European merchants pick out the best clothes – the loads also include bags, shoes, belts and bedwear – to sell in their shops, then bale the remainder and sells it on to traders in Africa.

So whatever option people choose, their old



Cash4Clothes chief executive officer Christian Farnell, aged 31, from Willenhall in the trading unit at Cannock

clothes, even those freely donated, will generally end up in the hands of a specialist group or textile merchants.

Cash4Clothes was started in 2010 by Darren Coggins, born and raised in Stafford, who launched European Textile Recycling Limited 23 years ago.

The canny entrepreneur, now 49, started out in house clearance, working mainly with local councils. Always one step ahead, he moved into textile banks, operating 500 sites at the height of the business before selling to JMP Wilcox, one of the UK's largest textile reclaimers.

Christian Farnell, whose CV includes In-Shops in Cannock and working as operations manager for Tesco, looking after 300 stores in Poland and Hungary, describes his boss as

'very forward-thinking'. He said: "He flipped the textile banks idea on its head. Instead of paying the council for the use of their tip sites, he pays the public. If they want, they can track what happens to their clothes, where they go, who benefits. He was the first to do it – others have followed but he's the biggest."

Research shows that in Kenya alone more than five million jobs and ancillary posts have been created in the second-hand clothing industry, from people unloading the containers, tailors altering the clothes, stallholders selling at market and landlords leasing premises.

The firm's Midland interests include shops Dudley, Kidderminster, Rugeley, Lichfield, Stafford, Stone, Walsall, Wolverhampton, Willenhall, and Aldridge.

All sorts of clothes are accepted, as long as

they are clean and undamaged. "I think things are changing," says Christian. "People are recycling more and more. Everyone's got clothes that are too big or too small that they want to get rid of and if they know they can get paid for it, they're even more inclined to do it."

"They can still choose to give the money we pay them to charity. I think the public are split. Either they want to the feel-good factor of giving to charity shops or they're not that way inclined."

"We set up in places where people are less well-off and might need the money."

"Sometimes people come in because they haven't got enough cash to top up the electricity meter. We still do a lot of work with charity shops, they buy stock from us, we have a lot of trading arms. We just provide another option."

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money, although that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done.

We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole."

Cloudy2Clear service Wolverhampton and the surrounding

area and Brian is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. "The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people

I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated."

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Concern over impact of rapeseed crop

THE benefits of rapeseed oil to the economy as a bio-fuel are well documented. It is also being promoted as a healthy cooking oil, but there is a disturbing element to this pernicious import when it is grown in close proximity to populated areas. Check it out by Googling 'rapeseed allergies'.

Reactions include asthma-like symptoms, skin rashes and itching, sore eyes, watery eyes and headaches. Take it from me, suffering from several of these symptoms is a very unpleasant experience.

In Wall Heath we were once sur-

rounded by beautiful fields of corn and traditional crops, but now we have fields of rapeseed within yards of the Maidensbridge estate and adjacent to the Charterfields estate.

Rapeseed is present within half a mile of nearly all the schools in Kingswinford and Wall Heath, but the effects of the harmful chemicals emitted by rapeseed flowers can be felt miles away.

I have raised this matter with MPs, but with no response. We have a right to breathe clean air again and it is time that the Ministry for the Environment

recognised this problem and banned the growing of rapeseed within close proximity of populated areas.

We will know quite soon which government is really backing the people and which one cares only about commercial matters by their response to the rapeseed problem. If you live in the Kingswinford area, or anywhere close to rapeseed fields and you suffer from these symptoms, please join me in my quest and write to your MP about this issue.

M CLIFF
Wall Heath

Whistling at girls is a compliment

I HAVE noticed with interest the story of the girl who reported workmen for giving her a wolf-whistle and the police are looking in to it.

I would have thought the police had much more important things to deal with than this. This is not anything sexual and surely should be taken as a compliment.

I am 79 years of age and do not of course get wolf whistles nowadays, but I remember when I was in my teens getting wolf whistles, and I remember telling my uncle (who I was visiting at the time) about it and he said 'Don't worry about that, the time to worry is when you don't get wolf whistles anymore', and we just had a laugh about it.

So personally, and in my opinion, I think it's 'much ado about nothing' and should be taken I'm sure as it was meant - a compliment.

A WILLIAMS
Tipton

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

Dudley Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial,
51-53 Queen Street
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

EMAIL

dudley.chrons@
expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

A&E no substitute for walk-in centre

ON May 5 I took my daughter to the walk-in centre, Dudley, to find it had closed down and moved to Russell Hall A&E. So I took my daughter to the A&E to find it full to the doors, the board announced that the waiting time was three hours.

The waiting time at the walk-in centre would have been no more than one hour. The difference is caused by the people needing A&E and the people visiting the walk-in because they cannot get an appointment to see their GP.

When it was publicly announced that it was being considered that the centre should move to A&E many people voiced their opinion that this would cause problems at A&E. A meeting was held in Dudley for interested parties to voice their opinion, but it was found that it was already passed for the move.

The medical team at the centre were first class. It was the sharp eye and fast thinking of a doctor at the walk-in that saved my daughter's life. This was voiced by a specialist at New Cross Hospital as most GPs would not have noticed the problem. Please, Dudley reopen it, this is your duty to your people.

N D CADDICK
Coseley

Miss Smith really did Cilla proud

I FEEL I must write to complain regarding comments printed in Pick Of The Week in The Chronicle on May 7.

Whoever wrote the comment saying the (brilliant) actress Sheridan Smith did not look or sound like Cilla Black (in TV drama-documentary Cilla) was not, in my opinion, watching the same drama as myself.

She had had singing lessons every day and also displayed her mannerisms perfectly. Well done Sheridan, you did Cilla proud.

MRS M A BRADLEY
Lower Gornal

Time for one limit on road

WHY has the road from M5 junction 3 to Grange Road island got three speed limits? Obviously motorists ignore this, so why don't we put in one speed limit along the entire stretch at 30mph? Motorists are not the priority - safety is.

GAIL WORSEY
Halesowen

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Speaker's family link is explored

MyTime Over Fifties

THE April meeting heard a talk from Nigel Metcalfe entitled "The Man who Mapped the Arctic" - Sir George Back.

Mr Metcalfe's interest in Sir George arose while tracing his family tree. He discovered Sir George was fourth great grand uncle on his father's side.

Sir George was a naval officer who helped in the mapping of the Canadian Arctic with John Franklin. In 1808, during the Napoleonic wars, he enlisted, aged 12, as a volunteer into the navy on board HMS Arethusa. He was captured by the French in April 1809 and remained as a prisoner of war in Verdun until 1814.

During this time he was taught French, navigation skills, maths and developed his artistic skills, all of which helped prepare him for his life ahead.

Following the end of the Napoleonic wars, the hunt was on for the North West Passage around Canada. Sir George took part in five expeditions to find, explore and map the Canadian northern coast. During his last expedition his ship was trapped in pack ice for nearly 10 months. Because of the hardships endured his health deteriorated. In 1839 he was knighted and became involved with the Royal Geographical society to maintain a lifelong interest in Arctic exploration.

The next meeting is on May 27 at 2pm in the Ambleside Room at Stourbridge Town Hall and will feature an "Afternoon of Chocolate" with Ms Jackie Smith.

Spotlight falls on ironmaster and MP



James Foster was the topic of the talk

THE Society meets at the Community Centre, High Street, Kingswinford.

The speaker at the May meeting was Roy Peacock who talked about James Foster, the Stourbridge Ironmaster.

He was a partner in John Bradley and Co and formed the Foster, Restrict Co that became famous for building The Agenoria, the steam locomotive that ran on the Kingswinford Railway, not far from where the evening's meeting was held and also the Stourbridge Lion, the first steam locomotive to run in the USA.

Foster became an MP in 1830, although

Members taken round world

CHAIRMAN Mrs V Wright welcomed 21 members and one visitor to the April meeting.

The meeting progressed as usual with the reading and signing of the minutes of the previous meeting. Treasurer Mrs L James gave her report.

Mrs V Raybould had information from the federation.

Quarry Bank E TG

The recent art and craft display was very successful and a member of the federation will be going to the AGM at Glasgow to represent the West Midlands TG.

Social Secretary Mrs M Writtle gave information regarding the visit to The

Lodge. The speaker was Alan Hill, on Around the World. This was a very interesting talk, illustrated with slides, including Hong Kong, Australia, Hawaii and San Francisco.

The meeting concluded with the serving of tea and biscuits.

The May 19 ameeeting will include a Bring and Buy.



The steam locomotive Agenoria

Kingswinford and District
Historical Society

he never spoke in the House of Commons. He was known as a good employer and was responsible for building Stourbridge Town hall and Ambleside Church.

The next historical society meeting is on Monday, June 1 when Max Keen, suitably attired, will talk about The Battle of Agincourt.

All are welcome, further details from Ron Julian 01384 295848.

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It's a moving farewell to Burma Star hero Walter



Members of the Royal British Legion lead the hearse into Gornal Wood Crematorium for the funeral of veteran Walter Carr

THE life of a Black Country war hero, who received the Burma Star medal for his service in the Second World War, was remembered at his funeral.

Walter Carr, who died aged 96, was given a big send-off at Gornal Wood crematorium, with representatives of the Royal British Legion and the Burma Star Association attending.

Mr Carr, who was raised in Church Lane, Tipton, was in the Royal Marines from 1939 to 1945 when he served in Burma and the Middle East.

His son Stephen, 65, who lives in Coleford Close, Wordsley, described his father as a family man with a passion for politics, who was also a huge fan of singer Shirley Bassey.

The Burma Star medal was received for his service in the brutal Burma campaign against the forces of Imperial Japan.

Union

After leaving the military, Mr Carr worked at the Austin car plant in Longbridge and later worked at Brymill Foundry, where he was active in the steelworkers' union.

He is also survived by two daughters who live in Canada.



Royal Marine Walter Carr

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COMPETITION

Flying high with chance to win tickets

READERS have a chance to take off to the RAF Cosford Air Show - for free! The Chronicle series has teamed up with the organisers to give eight readers the chance to win a pair of adult tickets to the spectacular show on Sunday, June 14.

As well as more than five hours of exciting flying displays including a joint Spitfire/Typhoon display, and of course the world famous Red Arrows the show will include ground exhibits from the Royal Air Force and other services and three hangars full of exciting interactive displays and exhibitions.

Along with the chance to sit in the cockpit of the iconic Jaguar aircraft, still based at RAF Cosford, there will be a unique line-up of Search and Rescue helicopters and the iconic TSR

2 jet. The flying displays will feature the best of the modern day Royal Air Force, classic aircraft and set pieces and will also pay tribute to other special anniversaries including the 70th Anniversary of Victory in Europe, the 90th Anniversary of the University Air Squadrons and the 50th Anniversary of the cancellation of the TSR 2 prototype supersonic aircraft.

RAF Cosford is the largest aviation event in the Midlands and is renowned for the huge variety of attractions on the ground with an indoor craft fair, funfair and this year an exciting 'Victory Village' authentically recreating a village green street party in 1945.

All tickets for the 2015 show will be advance sale only and all profits are donated to local and service charities. Details on www.cosfordairshow.co.uk.



Plenty to see on the ground as well as in the air including the 'Victory Village'



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How many years ago was the TSR 2 program cancelled?

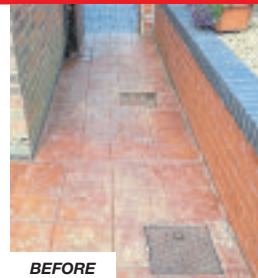
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Send your entries to RAF competition, Chronicle Editorial, 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES. Closing date: Thursday, May 21. Usual rules apply

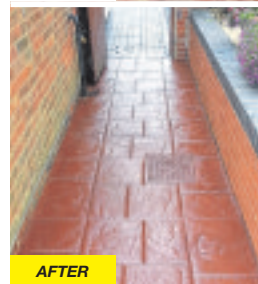
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Yoke's on Tony if he expects an egg for his breakfast

SPECKLED hen Becky left her owners shell-shocked when she laid an egg-strange tiny egg the size of a 20p piece.

Tony Sutton, aged 71, of Lavender Road, Dudley, discovered the miniature egg between two regular sized ones.

Mr Sutton, said: "I was so shocked when I discovered this tiny little egg. It is so unbelievably small."

"I have been breeding birds for a long time but I have never come across one like this."

Since discovering the egg, Mr Sutton has been taking precautions to make sure it is kept safe.

He added: "I would never dream of cracking it open. I have just been keeping it wrapped up safe in the fridge. I do not want to get rid of it."

Mr Sutton has been breeding

chickens for more than 20 years and has had Becky for two and a half years.

He added: "She has been laying for around nine months now. She seems fine, I am sure that there is nothing wrong with her health."

Mr Sutton is yet to have the egg measured because he is worried about breaking it.

Even though the Guinness Book of Records does not publish records of the world's smallest hen's egg.

Mr Sutton added: "I cannot measure it myself, it is simply too small and I would be too scared of accidentally breaking it."

Prior to breeding birds, Mr Sutton and his wife Jean, 63, ran a number of pubs and social clubs across Dudley and Rowley Regis before they both retired.



A disappointing breakfast? Tony Sutton, of Dudley, with the tiny egg that was laid by Becky the Hen

Get-togethers will help plan the big day

A BRIDAL event at Dudley's historic Priory Hall is being repeated to help brides-to-be plan their big day.

Last month's get-together has prompted superintendent registrar Penny Fulford to organise a free series of events through the summer and autumn.

The next 'girls only' event takes place on Thursday, May 21, between 5pm and 7pm and is aimed at brides-to-be and their mums and potential bridesmaids.

Registrars will be on hand to answer any questions, to book ceremonies, discuss options and take payments. There will also be a selection of 'once worn' bridal gowns available. Confetti cones, order of ceremony leaflets, invitations and certificates will also be on display.

Penny Fulford said: "Brides-to-be can really get in the mood for their big day by coming along to Priory Hall where they may already have booked their marriage ceremony. Our Grade 2 listed building is metres from the Priory ruins and overlooked by Dudley Castle - the perfect setting for a memorable day."

Other events will take place on June 25, July 23 and September 3 at 5pm.

Canalside homes are likely to get green light

PLANS to build 60 homes in Tividale as part of a new canalside development were to get the go-ahead this week.

The site, known as Rattlesnake Chain open space, is earmarked to be redeveloped by Cameron Homes Limited. It was formerly part of the urban forest.

Proposals for the development, alongside the Gower Branch Canal, were submitted to Sandwell Council and have been backed by officers. The scheme was recommended for approval and a final decision was due to be made by councillors at a meeting yesterday (Wednesday).

If given the green light, the development will include 22 four-bedroom properties and 30 three and two bedroom homes.

There will also be eight affordable homes built.

There have been five letters of objection lodged with the council ahead of the plans being discussed by councillors. Some residents are concerned about the loss of the site, which they say is 'a haven for wildlife' and well-used by the community. There are also fears about potential noise, pollution and traffic.

Planning officers at Sandwell Council says it is a suitable development for the site.

A report submitted by Ian Burns from Cameron Homes Limited says: "The development will provide 60 dwellings ranging from two-bedroom terraced to four-bedroom detached suitable for a range of needs which will add to the community of residents and will

By Heather Large

help generate a vibrant and active family development.

"It is important to reflect the local context of Tividale; building heights will range from single storey garages to three-storey split level dwellings which will cascade down the levels on the eastern boundary and provide a focal point to the canal."

Through discussions already held, the council has been able to secure a £50,000 lump sum payment from the developers.

Cycle

Access for cars and pedestrians would be from Palmerston Drive and there would be 146 car parking spaces and 60 cycle spaces provided.

A total of 54 properties would be available on the open market with six reserved for social and intermediate rent.

The site had formed part of a refuse tip until the 1970s since when homes have been built on much of the land and the rest has been left as open space.

Water company's volunteers on Beacon

VOLUNTEERS have been sprucing up a Black Country beauty spot by restoring hedgerows.

Workers from South Staffs Water have also been sowing wildflowers and clearing litter during the project at Sedgley Beacon.

A team have been working alongside the Wildlife Trust for Birmingham and the Black Country.

Alex Martin, from South Staffs Water, said: "The day at Sedgley was a great opportunity to get out of the office to see and physically participate in what we are trying to do through our biodiversity and community engagement strategies. There was some hard work to be done but it was also great fun."

South Staffs Water plan to continue their work at Sedgley Beacon, helping the Wildlife Trust to realise their plan of returning the beauty spot to Site of Special Scientific Interest status.

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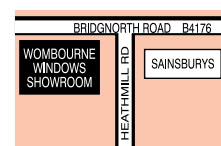
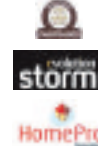
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Morris dancing in the streets

A TOWN centre will be alive with stick-wielding and clog-stomping on Saturday during a day of morris dancing.

The Stourbridge-based Bedcote Morris Dancers will host the event in their home town with performances taking place throughout the day from 11am.

Performers from across the Midlands will be bringing a variety of traditional dance to Lower High Street.

As well as the traditional Cotswold Morris, there will be displays of Border morris, North-West clog, Appalachian step, belly dancing and step clogging.

Elaine Jones, Squire of Bedcote Morris, said: "We spend most weekends throughout the summer travelling to perform in dance and folk festivals so it's a real pleasure to be hosting a 'home fixture' in Stourbridge."

Outdoors store to open at Merry Hill creating 80 jobs

ULTIMATE Outdoors will open a new store at Merry Hill next Saturday, creating around 80 jobs.

The firm, part of JD Sports, is taking over the old Kiddicare shop which has been lying empty since September last year.

Bosses have begun recruiting full and part-time workers for the store, which will welcome its first customers on May 23. Positions available at the shop, which sells a range of outdoor clothing, equipment and accessories, include sales advisors, cycle technicians and cafe staff.

Work is under way to refurbish and fit out the premises ahead of the store's opening day.

Rob Pickersgill, marketing manager at intu Merry Hill, has welcomed the new store and the jobs. "We're very excited for the opening of Ultimate Outdoors, another great boost to the centre in what has been a very successful first year as intu," he added.

Bosses at Ultimate Outdoors say they are planning a promotional weekend to mark the opening of the new store at the Brierley Hill complex, which will include special offers and a climbing wall in the car park.

Ultimate Outdoors also sells online and has a store in Preston. It is opening a branch in Nottingham too.

In 2014 the business was acquired by JD Sports Fashion plc and was re-launched in its new location in Preston. The 41,000 sq ft Merry Hill site was one of five Kiddicare baby and nursery specialist stores bought by JD Sports last year. Kiddicare closed with the loss of 100 jobs.

Merry Hill owner Intu, which took over the shopping centre last spring, announced in February it was aiming to spend £20 million on improvements to the shopping centre.

Hall landscape talk at meeting

A TALK on the restoration of Hagley Hall's park and gardens takes place in Clent next week.

Clent Historical Society will be hosting the meeting at Clent Parish Hall, in Church Avenue, on Thursday, May 21, at 8pm, when head of landscape at Hagley Hall, Joe Hawkins, will talk about the project. He will describe the extensive work involved in the restoration of the hall's gardens to their 18th century design.

Admission for non-members is £2.50, including tea or coffee at the end of the meeting. Contact Carole Hodgson on 01562 885759.

Lord Cobham has plans for a £2.5million visitor centre as part of the next phase of work.

Value added for church funds



Antique expert Mark Hannam from Fieldings Auctioneers and TV's Flog It takes a close look

AUCTIONEER and TV celebrity Mark Hannam was at a Stourbridge church to value prized possessions brought in by members of the congregation.

A regular on BBC TV's Flog It!, Mr Hannam gave a talk at St Thomas's Church and everyone who attended was invited to bring along an item to be valued.

The expert from Fieldings Auctioneers, in Stourbridge, took the time to talk about each item and to give an estimate on how much it was worth.

Values ranged from as little as £5 but all eyes were on a coin that dated back to 1645 that was valued at between £500 and £700.

Organiser of the event, Judi Davies, was pleased with the turnout which saw 50 people attend the church fundraising event.

She said: "I was really happy with the amount of people that took the time to come

along. It was great that Mark came along to support us and we all had a really great time with him.

"I brought along a late Victorian children's tea set that Mark valued at £50 to £70."

Buzz

She added: "It left such a positive buzz in the church and has given many people confidence to go out and get more items valued."

The church has been holding a number of events to raise cash for its restoration work.

Mrs Davies added: "As the church is a Grade I listed Georgian building we need all the support we can get to raise the money needed."

"We are holding the flower festival next month too, so we are hoping that will help."

Ambulance charity host network lunch

A NETWORKING event has been organised by Midlands Air Ambulance Charity at Bank Restaurant in Brindley Place, Birmingham, on Wednesday, June 10.

Around 100 businesses are anticipated to attend the luncheon, which will include a two course meal and a drink.

Sofia Voutianitis, corporate fundraising manager for Midlands Air Ambulance Charity, said: "Our networking events have fast become much anticipated dates in the business calendar as we have facilitated a number of new opportunities for Midlands' businesses and our corporate partners.

"We look forward to welcoming our guests on June 10 for what is set to be an extremely worthwhile event for anyone looking to grow their network of contacts."

The event starts at 12.15pm and tickets are £25 per person. To book visit www.midlandsairambulance.com/corporate or email jon.cottrell@midlandsairambulance.com

Hat's the way to do it

A CHURCH in Dudley is preparing to host a fundraising event next weekend that is inspired by Alice's Adventures in Wonderland.

St Peter's Church, in Kent Street, Upper Gornal, is holding a sale on Saturday and it is being themed on the Mad Hatter's Tea Party from Lewis Carroll's famous Victorian book.

The event will be running from 10.30am to 2.30pm in aid of church funds with cakes, a tombola, toys, books and bric-a-brac among the stalls.

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COUNCIL chiefs hope a £9 million revamp of Dudley bus station will begin in 'the near future'.

No start date has been announced for the complete overhaul that was revealed last year.

Dudley Council said it was working with transport giant Centro on the plans, that also involve new buses with leather seats, wi-fi and charging points for mobile phones.

John Millar, strategic director for economy, environment and housing, said: "While the redevelopment of the bus station is primarily a matter for Centro, we do recognise it is an important asset to complement the wider regeneration schemes in the town centre."

"We are continuing to liaise with Centro to encourage them to move forward with proposals for the bus station in the near future."

Filming starts for TV drama

FILM crews have arrived in the Black Country to make a TV drama penned by Dudley comedian and actor Lenny Henry.

He has written a semi-autobiographical script for a BBC show set in his home town and drawing on his experiences before he found fame. Scenes were shot for Danny And The Human Zoo at iron castings company Thomas Dudley's foundry on the Vaughan Trading Estate, Dudley Port.

FOCUS ON DUDLEY TOWN CENTRE

Mystery doodler's calling cards found at the castle

AN artist dubbed the Black Country Banksy has visited Dudley Zoo's new interactive exhibit — leaving two of his trademark calling cards inside Dudley Castle.

The mystery man has been baffling people for decades by leaving beer mats featuring sketches of the late opera singer Mario Lanza.

The discreet doodler left a total of six cards at the zoo.

By Domsine Bareham

He deposited two in Castle Creatures — a new interactive medieval experience featuring live animals in the 11th century Castle — and three in the Safari Gift Shop and one in the men's toilet.

The artist has been compared to street artist Banksy because of his stealth approach.

He left one card saying 'Lanza had the ability to expand his chest by 10 inches'.

Another read 'Murdered by the mob? 7.10.1959 Rome'.

All the cards were signed AJW and included a phone number and a Facebook address.

Another even had a train ticket taped to it.

Zoo spokesman Jane Thomas said: "These beer mats have certainly caused a stir among our staff who were very excited about finding them."

"We hope this shadowy figure enjoyed our new exhibit and his visit to the zoo."

"Everyone is still having a good look around in case we've missed any mats so maybe our visitors can keep their eyes peeled too."

Line drawings of Mario Lanza started turning up on the backs of beer mats shortly after the troubled opera star died in 1959, at the age of 38.

Since then, they have cropped up in pubs, shops and public places around the Black Country, without the artist's identity ever being revealed.

Most have been found locally in the inns of the Black Country, although some have reportedly been discovered as far afield in this country as Chester and even abroad, in the South of France.

It has been estimated that there have been 250,000 secret sketches scattered around the region.



Proud lemur mum Phoebe with her second set of twins in exactly eight months at Dudley Zoo

More lemur twins born at the zoo

THERE'S double delight at Dudley Zoo where keepers are celebrating the arrival of a new pair of ring-tailed lemur twins.

Proud mum Phoebe certainly knows what she's doing — it's her second set of twins in exactly eight months! The new pair were born on April 21 eight months after Phoebe gave birth to twin males, Icarus and Kinich, on August 21.

The newborns join their father, Frank, and siblings twins Nelly and Kelly, big brother Spock, big sister Freya and young brothers Icarus and Kinich in the mixed lemur exhibit.

Keeper Sophie Dugmore, said: "The new twins are doing really well and Phoebe is a very good mother. This is her seventh litter."

Keepers will have to wait a few weeks until they are able to sex and name the newborns, as baby lemurs cling to their mums for at least 12 weeks.

Councillors agree to venue talks

SENIOR councillors have agreed to talks in a bid to salvage an £8 million deal to save Dudley Hippodrome.

Campaigners wanting to rescue the historic Castle Hill venue met with political leaders and officers at Dudley Council to urge them to hold talks, after a rescue bid collapsed.

The Rok Group withdrew its proposals to acquire and restore the former theatre after failing to strike a deal with the council over the costs of removing asbestos from the premises and the use of Dudley Zoo's neighbouring car park.

UKIP group leader Paul Brothwood and Labour group leader Pete Lowe have now said they are prepared to meet The Rok Group.

But campaigners for the revamp and re-opening of the theatre fear that it may already be too late.

Dog training sessions held

DOG owners can take their pets to training sessions at Priory Park in Dudley.

The sessions take place every Saturday from 10am to 11am for dogs aged up to six months and at 11am to noon for dogs aged over six months. Led by the Kennel Club, the activities are open to dogs of all ages and breeds and cover behavioural training, obedience, tricks and exercise.

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days to take advantage of this opportunity and see if we can help you to secure a future for your family.

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Perton: Tuesday, May 19
Gornal: Wednesday, May 20
Brierley Hill and Kingswinford: Thursday, May 21

Stourbridge: Friday, May 22
Kingswinford: Saturday, May 23

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- Plan your future care and support
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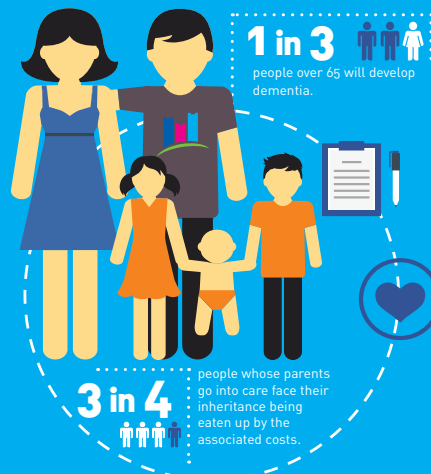
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Full English farewell is flawless

**The Full English
Town Hall, Birmingham**
AMID the songs about cannibalism and disastrous weddings there was a hint of sadness about the gathering of The Full English in the Second City. Partly because it would be the last time they would play the superb venue as a group and partly because there were only three more gigs left in their farewell tour.

The group was put together by

musician and academic Fay Hield to promote the Full English database, an online resource of nearly 60,000 items of folk music and British musical heritage.

Hield, Martin Simpson, Seth Lakeman, Nancy Kerr, Sam Sweeney, Rob Harbron and Ben Nicholls showed how the music and information available could be turned into exquisite tunes.

They opened with Awake Awake

with Hield providing the strong and sharp lead vocals helped along wonderfully by Kerr and the full ensemble. Among the offerings were Simpson's Creeping Jane and Lakeman's William & Nancy.

As you would expect with a stage filled with experts in their respective instruments the music was flawless and the fantastic acoustics in the ornate building did their sound justice.

Danny Farragher

Not Rotten but show is no classic

**Dirty Rotten Scoundrels,
New Alexandra**

THIS eager-to-please comedy-musical won over audiences at Birmingham, despite unfamiliarity with its songs.

Based on a 1980s movie and on tour with a new cast after a year in the West End, it worked best as a comedy. It packed in gags both witty and rude in a story about conniving rich women on the French Riviera. Former Robin of Sherwood actor Michael Praed shone as the vain and devious older fraudster, while ex-Hear'say singer Noel Sullivan stole lots of scenes as his crude younger rival.

The songs, in a variety of styles, seemed designed as vehicles for humorous lyrics rather than memorable tunes.

Mark Benton, using dancing skills picked up in Strictly Come Dancing, gave likeable support as a crooked French police chief with 'Allo 'Allo accent. Hollywood actress Carley Stenson had star quality as the seamsters' intended victim. The show is on to Saturday.

Leon Burakowski

REVIEWS



Jessie Hart and Lewis Kirk star in Dirty Dancing at Birmingham Hippodrome until May 23

Audiences having the time of their lives with Dirty delight

Dirty Dancing, Birmingham Hippodrome
FOR those who missed the tour of the stage adaptation of the cult classic Dirty Dancing last summer, there is still a chance to catch the show as it shimmies into the Hippodrome until May 23.

Baby Houseman's feminist dreams are challenged on a family holiday when she falls in love with dance teacher Johnny Castle. It would be considered sacrilege to tamper with the original script but fans can rest easy knowing that director Sarah Tipple has stuck rigidly to the tried and tested format, to produce the perfect version of the movie as a piece of live theatre.

The show is all about the dancing and this superbly entertaining cast display extraordinary technique throughout, offering the audience the Time of Their Lives from the opening to one of the best loved finales.

It is wonderful to see local lass, Jessie Hart from Wall Heath, play the iconic role of Baby to absolute perfection, bringing just the right mixture of innocence and allure to her performance. She certainly had chemistry with Lewis Kirk as Johnny. Claire Rogers gives a mesmerising performance as Penny, almost stealing the show with her dance moves, not to mention the longest legs in the business!

Alison Norton

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Community centre parties mark golden anniversary

UKULELE music heralded a golden anniversary for a community centre which is used by hundreds of people each week.

Kingswinford Community Centre has marked its 50th anniversary at its site in Market Street.

A range of community groups and organisations use the popular venue. The biggest group, a branch of the University of the Third Age (U3A), has around 500 members and hosts a range of classes at the centre.

There are around 20 sections of the branch including clubs for ukulele, curling, old movies, history, wine, dance, slimming and music appreciation.

Ukulele group the Kingswinford and District Strummers staged a concert for 160 guests over two weekends.

The shows also featured the U3A's guitar group and Blake May performing monologues to delight the gathered audience.

Community centre management committee member Ken Tromans, aged 80, of Kingswinford, said the events were a fitting way to mark the anniversary.

"It was a brilliant to see so many people come along. The nights were really good. It is good to see the centre as part of the community. It is vibrant."



KCA chairman John Aston, centre, with Ken Tromans, left, and Eric Henry of Kingswinford Strummers

Music nights at farm are in aid of charities

TWO nights of live music are planned at a village to help raise money for charities.

The Musica15 event is taking place in Belbroughton, near Stourbridge, on July 10 and 11. Money raised by the event will go to the Midlands Air Ambulance, Sunfield Children's Home and Belbroughton Animal Sanctuary.

A parade of the Royal British Legion standards with the Northfield Caledonian Pipe and Drum Band will be held alongside performances from Elliot Hinton and a Rod Stewart tribute act on July 10. The following night Hagley RC School Rock Band and Blind Lemon, a Blues Brothers tribute, will be performing.

Both nights are at Church Farm, in Bradford Lane. The concert starts at 7pm on the Friday and 7.30pm on the aturday. Tickets are £15 per person or £25 for a two night pass. Call 01562 730539 or 07547 110187 or email rogerandgaye@compuserve.com.

Brierley Hill wheelchair group takes over rival

THE makers of the wheelchairs for Great Britain's paralympic basketball team has been bought by a Black Country firm in a multi-million pound deal.

Founded more than a quarter of a century ago by former paralympian Greg Eden and wheelchair basketball player Russel Simms, Burntwood-based RGK has grown into one of the world's leading designers and manufacturers of bespoke wheelchairs.

Mr Simms and Mr Eden, who were both left disabled by car crashes, met as wheelchair basketball internationals. They drew on their experience to design lightweight made-to-measure wheelchairs for sport use.

The company makes wheelchairs for athletes across the world, including the Union Jack chairs used by GB's paralympic basketball team at the London Olympics in 2012.

RGK now makes around 1,500 chairs a year at its Burntwood factory, where it employs 40 and has turnover in excess of £3 m a year.

It has been bought for an undisclosed sum by Brierley Hill-based Sunrise Medical to become part of the bigger company's sports product arm.

It is understood Greg Eden has resigned as a director following the deal but Russel Simms is staying on as RGK's commercial director.

Sunrise Medical also makes custom-designed wheelchairs, including an electrically-powered range. It has sold thousands of chairs to the NHS and

By Simon Penfold

wheelchair dealers since developing its Quickie Salsa M chair in 2010.

The Brierley Hill operation, which employs around 150, is part of a German-based group with 1,800 employees at facilities in the UK, Mexico, the US, Spain and China.

Sunrise Medical says the takeover will keep it at the front of the world's top end sports wheelchair market, adding to its existing Quickie and Sopur wheelchairs.

Rio

Thomas Rossnagel, CEO at Sunrise Medical said: "RGK is a great addition to our family of brands.

"Personally, I am very excited about the prospect of a united RGK and Sunrise Medical, especially leading up to the Rio 2016 Paralympics.

RGK has a strong and dedicated team of people headed up by an excellent management team who will continue to run the business with the new support, resources, and experience we have at our disposal."

Tennis club holds court at open day

PEOPLE can pick up a racket and try their skills on the tennis court at a club's charity open day. Stourbridge Lawn Tennis and Squash Club is taking part in the Great British Tennis event on Saturday.

The club will be hosting a family fun day for all between 10am and 4pm. Money raised from the event will be going to Mary Stevens Hospice. In addition to regular classes and academies, there will be a variety of activities including a fastest serve competition and mini-tennis sessions. A barbecue will be open from noon to 3pm.

Club chairman Sarah Davis said: "It is an ideal opportunity for people to come along and have a look at the excellent facilities the club has to offer, whilst helping to raise money for a very worthwhile local charity."

The club has 14 tennis courts, six squash courts, a gym and club house. See www.stourbridge-tennis-squash.co.uk for details.

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Dudley North
 Rehan Afzal (Apni) 156
 Ian Austin (Lab) 15,885
 Will Duckworth (Green) 517
 Bill Etheridge (UKIP) 9,113
 Mike Collins (Lib Dem) 478
 Les Jones (Con) 11,704
 David Pitt (Trade Unionist and Socialist Coalition) 139
 Result: Labour Hold Majority: 4,181
 Turnout: 62.6%

Dudley South
 Paul Brothwood (UKIP) 7,236
 Vicky Duckworth (Green) 970
 Natasha Millward (Lab) 12,453
 Martin Turner (Lib Dem) 828
 Mike Wood (Con) 16,723
 Result: Conservative Hold Majority: 4,270
 Turnout: 63.3%

Stourbridge
 Chris Bramall (Lib Dem) 1,538
 Jim Carver (UKIP) 7,774
 Margot James (Con) 21,195
 Christian Kiever (Green) 1,021
 Pete Lowe (Lab) 14,501
 Result: Conservative Hold Majority: 6,694
 Turnout: 66.6%

Halesowen and Rowley Regis
 James Morris (Con) 18,933
 John Payne (Green) 849
 Stephanie Peacock (Lab) 15,851
 Dean Perks (UKIP) 7,280
 Peter Tyzack (Lib Dem) 905
 Result: Conservative Hold Majority: 3,082
 Turnout: 59.1%

South Staffs
 Lyndon Jones (UKIP) 8,267
 Kevin McElduff (Lab) 9,107
 Claire McIlvanna (Green) 1,298
 Gavin Williamson (Con) 29,478
 Robert Woodthorpe Browne (Lib Dem) 1,448
 Result: Conservative Hold Majority: 20,371
 Turnout: 58.9%

One Labour victory as Tories keep three

By Andrew Turton

TORIES were all smiles as they held onto their seats in Dudley borough while Labour's Ian Austin was re-elected with an increased majority.

Stourbridge, Dudley South and Halesowen and Rowley Regis all remained blue while Mr Austin successfully held off a challenge for his Dudley North seat.

A delighted Margot James held onto her Stourbridge seat with a majority of 6,694.

"I am very honoured that trust has been placed in me for a second term," the MP said.

Mike Wood was elected as Dudley South's new Tory MP replacing the outgoing Chris Kelly. The MP retained the Conservative seat after polling 16,723 votes.

"I am absolutely delighted," said Mr Wood. "It is a huge responsibility and a great honour. I look forward to working hard for local people and will start straight away."

James Morris celebrated keeping Halesowen and Rowley Regis with an increased majority, saying: "I made history at the last general election by being the first Conservative MP to be elected to any part of the Sandwell borough and now



Labour's Ian Austin gives his victory speech after the Dudley North election count at Dudley Concert Hall



Thumbs up at the Cornbow Hall as Conservative James Morris hears he has been re-elected

I am very proud to have been re-elected in a seat that Labour targeted."

In Dudley North, Ian Austin held onto his Labour seat and

also increased his majority. At the 2010 election he secured a slim 649 majority but this time round retained his seat with a majority of 4,000. "I want to

thank the people of Dudley for giving me the opportunity to serve the town for another five years. It is a massive honour and a great privilege," he said.



A kiss for the winner - Conservative Mike Wood gets a smacker from wife Laura



Jubilant Margot James, centre, celebrating holding her Stourbridge seat with supporters

Results in your ward

Amblecote
 Sikandar Ahmed (Lab) 1716, Christian Kiever (Green) 238, Pete Lee (UKIP) 1,776, Simon Tyler (Con) 3079
 Con hold

Belle Vale
 Liz Keenan (Lab) 2,553, Graeme Lloyd (UKIP) 1,279, Simon Phillips (Con) 2,728, Gemma Thompson (Green) 329
 Con hold

Brierley Hill
 Gordon Elock (Green) 275, Rachel Harris (Lab) 2,351, Carl Owen (UKIP) 1,409, Kamran Razaq (Con) 1,429
 Lab hold

Brockmoor & Pensnett
 Sue Greenway (Con) 1,593, Jennifer Hill (UKIP) 1,374, Karen Jordan (Lab) 2,069, Ben Sweeney (Green) 127
 Lab hold

Castle and Priory
 Ken Finch (Lab) 3,011, Alexander Kendall (Green) 202, Daryl Millward (Con) 1,481, Philip Wilmitt (UKIP) 1,695
 Lab hold

Coseley East
 Martin Duffield (Con) 1,399, Jon Hartless (Green) 159, Melvyn Mottram (Lab) 2,276, Craig Winyard (UKIP) 1,684
 Lab hold

Cradley & Wollescote
 Richard Body (Lab) 2,602, Alan Hopwood (Con) 1,704, Dennis Neville (Green) 218, Lee Sargeant (UKIP) 1,427
 Lab hold

Gornal
 Anne Millward (Con) 2,443, Andrew Parsons (UKIP) 2,203, Stuart Turner (Lab) 2,292, Ryan Virgo (Green) 124
 Con gain

Halesowen North
 Nathan Hunt (UKIP) 1,288, Ian McGarry (Lab) 2,337, John Payne (Green) 231, Karen Shakespeare (Con) 2,497
 Con hold

Halesowen South
 James Apperley (UKIP) 1,148, Derek Campbell (LD) 293, John Lewis (Lab) 1,815, Alan Taylor (Con) 3,633, Tim Weller (Green) 219
 Con hold

Hayley Green & Cradley South
 Michael Forsyth (UKIP) 1,222, Malcolm Freeman (Lab) 1,840, Jeff Hill (Con) 2,879, Colin Royle (Green) 242, Adrian Turner (Independent) 366
 Con hold

Kingswinford North & Wall Heath
 Lynn Boleyn (Lab) 1,944, Luke Harrison (Green) 136, Karl Reynolds (UKIP) 1,553, Nicola Richards (Con) 3,672
 Con gain

Kingswinford South
 Vicky Duckworth (Green) 328, Peter Hillman (UKIP) 1,356, Peter Miller (Con) 3,828, Shaz Saleem (Lab) 1,678
 Con hold

Lye & Stourbridge North
 Mohammed Hanif (Lab) 2,143, Asan Mishra (Con) 1,937, Andi Mohr (Green) 218, Wendy Wilde (UKIP) 1,646
 Lab hold

Netherton, Woodside & St Andrew's
 Stephen Daniels (UKIP) 1,474, Bill McComish (Green) 1,288, Chris Neale (Con) 1,201, Qadar Zada (Lab) 2,113
 Lab hold

Norton
 Pam Archer (Green) 414, Mike Cranage (Lab) 1,527, Vic Hanson (LD) 429, David Powell (UKIP) 1,023, Heather Rogers (Con) 3,795
 Con hold

Pedmore & Stourbridge East
 Julie Baines (Lab) 1,733, Simon Hanson (LD) 357, Sabina Heywood (UKIP) 1,035, Ian Kettle (Con) 3,882, Liz Tilly (Green) 254
 Con hold

Quarry Bank & Dudley Wood
 Martin Cottrell (Green) 259, Jackie (UKIP) 1,750, Tim Wood (Con) 1,660
 Lab hold

Sedgley
 Marcia Harris (UKIP) 1,874, Emma Harrison (Green) 193, Sue Ridney (Lab) 1,779, Tina Westwood (Con) 2,914
 Con hold

St James's
 Adrian Crossen (Green) 186, Mary Roberts (Lab) 2,841, Phillip Rowe (UKIP) 1,642, Jack Spriggs (Con) 1,398
 Lab hold

St Thomas's
 Christian Green (Green) 258, Lila Redfern (Con) 918, Glenis Simms (Lab) 3,351, Helen Wilmitt (UKIP) 1,310
 Lab hold

Upper Gornal & Woodsetton
 Dorren Ameson (Con) 1,864, Adam Aston (Lab) 2,256, Daniel Brookles (Green) 154, Fiona Evans (UKIP) 1795
 Lab hold

Wollaston & Stourbridge Town
 Steve Clark (Con) 3,075, Serena Craigie (Lab) 1,956, Margaret Hason (LD) 406, Maxim Lowe (UKIP) 1,141, Lawrence Rowlett (Green) 461
 Con gain

Wordsley
 William Cody (Lab) 2,071, John MacLeod (UKIP) 1,623, Catherine Maguire (Green) 161, Matt Rogers (Con) 3,037
 Con hold

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Jobs on horizon at lorry sales business

AROUND a dozen jobs will be created after plans to transform a disused car park in the Black Country into a site for commercial vehicle sales was given the green light

Tipton-based C&W Commercial, which sells lorries and specialist vehicles such as ready-mixed concrete lorries, plans to use the land at the

corner of Bull Lane and Western Way in Moxley as its new base.

Office

The site was used as a 120 space staff car park for the former Wessons Foundry on the opposite side of Bull Lane which has been demolished.

A small sales office will also be in-

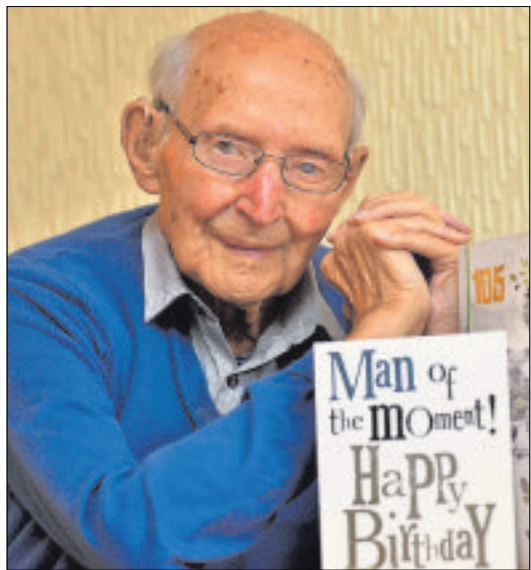
cluded in the plans given the go-ahead by Walsall Council.

A total of 11 jobs are anticipated to be created, including six full-time roles and five part-time jobs mainly for delivery drivers.

The foundry closed in 2009 and the land has been unused for several years.

Concern in village over sand and gravel quarry investigation

Keep active, says Albert



Albert Taylor, of Kingswinford, celebrates his 105th birthday

GARDENING and getting out of the house are the keys to a long life, according to Albert Taylor, who is celebrating his 105th birthday.

Mr Taylor, who lives in Compton Grove, Kingswinford, toasted his milestone birthday with friends and family.

Born on May 4 in 1910 to Arthur and Clarice, Mr Taylor grew up in King William Street, Amblecote. He was one of five children with brothers Peter and Arthur and sisters Anne and Eve.

After leaving school at the age of 14, Mr Taylor went on to build machinery for a number of companies.

In the 1930s Mr Taylor began to travel. He spent two months living in Dublin whilst building machinery for a chocolate factory. He later worked at the Revo Foundry in Tiv-dale.

After moving back to England in his late 20s he married Mary-Elizabeth in 1938. They moved into Mr Taylor's to Kingswinford in 1939, where they had their two sons – Roger, 72 and Robert, 70. He has just welcomed his first great-grand-child, William.

When asked what his secret to his long age, Mr Taylor said: "I still get myself out and about."

DEVELOPERS behind a contro-versial marina at a South Staf-fordshire village near Himley are now considering creating a sand and gravel quarry.

Up to 296,000 tons of sand and gravel could be extracted from the 22-acre site over a two year project, under proposals for a site at Swindon.

MHJ Limited has applied to look into the planned extraction of sand and gravel at the site off High Street.

A maximum of 50 lorry journeys in an out of the site have been requested as part of the plans tabled to Staffordshire County Council. Lorries would access the quarry during a five day week stated in documents to the council by developer MHJ Limited.

A planning condition attached to the marina permission prevented developers from removing the minerals.

Resident Gordon Fanthom, of Hinksford Gardens, has raised his concerns over the potential impact on the village.

"It is completely different from what the original planning permission was, which was for the sand and gravel to be spread around on site and not have any trucks coming through the village," he said. "It will totally devastate that area."

South Staffordshire district councillor Roger Lees, who represents Swindon, said proposal was to take a sample out of the ground to ascertain whether there was any sand or gravel in it.

Minerals

He claimed that if the developers wanted to remove the minerals to sell them, they would have to resubmit the entire planning application, including for the marina.

He added: "This is a very spurious ap-plication. The explanation seems to be fi-nancial. They can't open the marina with the conditions as they stand that have been imposed. They can't afford to carry this out without getting extra money and this is one way of getting extra money."

The marina plan is to provide berths for up to 199 boats on a 22-acre green belt site off the High Street. Tim and Joanna Mun-day, owners of Manor Farm, have applied for permission for the marina. If it is ap-proved, it will include a 130-space car park, farm shop, tea room and viewing area. The plans met with 300 objections from vil-lagers. A further application, to increase the number of berths to 236, was thrown out by the district council last year.

Hundreds of deer killed on region's roads

HUNDREDS of car crashes involving deer took place in one year in Staffordshire and the Black Country.

Roads in Cannock Chase and Wyre Forest are among the worst for reported deer vehicle collisions, according to the Deer Initiative.

It has up to 200 of the in-cidents reported each year in Cannock Chase, but the organisation believes the true figure could stand at 250. In Wyre Forest, around 30 are reported each year, but the real figure could be between 50 and 60. The M5 and M42 south-west of Bir-mingham are also common areas for deer collisions.

Dr Jochen Langbein, who has been working with the Deer Initiative for 10 years, estimated that as many as a fifth of the 1.5 million deer in the UK were affected.

He said: "Although around 20 per cent need to be culled each year to prevent further increase in deer populations, sadly deer-vehicle collisions account for one in every five deer killed.

"This spring alone near 20,000 deer are likely to be killed on UK roads."

The A4194 from Bewdley to Stourport and the A456 are cited as the worst areas in the Wyre Forest.

Arson suspected after factory is destroyed by fire

A HUGE fire that destroyed a plastics factory in Oldbury may have been started deliberately, fire chiefs say.

The blaze, which burned for 16 hours at Teknor Apex on Tat Bank Road, is being treated as suspicious by investigators.

New evidence was discovered at the site of the burned-out factory after demolition work got under way.

Watch commander Jason Boyd, of Oldbury Fire Station, said: "We knew where the fire started because one of the directors fought the fire but the demolition of part of the factory has al-

lowed us to get better access to where it actually started.

"The fire investigation officer saw evidence that suggested it was possibly a suspicious fire. There are investigations going on at the moment."

Around 30 workers were forced to flee the factory as the flames took hold on April 29.

The building was destroyed by a blaze which at its height was tackled by 75 firefighters.

Roger Davies, the operations manager at Teknor Apex, said he was determined that the blaze would not destroy the business.

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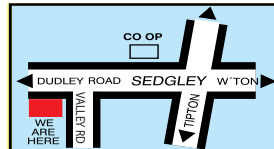
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Buckingham Palace, Houses of Parliament and the London Eye

Four days departing August 14 and September 18



At a staggering 135 metres the London Eye is the world's tallest cantilevered observation wheel. During the 30-minute, 360 degrees rotation there will be the chance to take in spectacular panoramic views of London and maybe spot some of it's famous landmarks, from a fully enclosed high tech glass capsule.

Also included are visits to Henley-on-Thames, a pretty riverside market town known the world over for its Royal Regatta, and Windsor with its spectacular castle (entrance payable locally) and Great Park, as well as free time in central London to shop or sightsee.



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At the Houses of Parliament meet a blue badge guide for an included tour which features rooms such as the Queen's Robing room, the Royal Gallery and The Princes Chamber, as well as the Chamber of the House of Lords where the Throne can be seen.

INFO

- Return coach travel
- Three nights half-board accommodation
- Entrance to Buckingham Palace
- Entrance and guided tour of the Houses of Parliament
- Flight on the London Eye
- Visits to Royal Windsor and Henley-on-Thames
- Free time in London
- Single rooms subject to availability – supplement applies

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Pick
of the
week

Afternoon Tea at The Ritz

Two days departing September 13



PRICE FROM **£199**

- Return coach travel
- Overnight bed and breakfast accommodation
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- Afternoon tea at The Ritz
- Visit to Fortnum & Mason and Harrods
- Glass of Champagne at the Champagne bar, St Pancras
- Free time in London
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

The Railway Children at York Railway Museum

Three days departing August 14



PRICE FROM **£189**

- Return coach travel
- Two nights half-board accommodation
- Ticket for the performance of The Railway Children at York Railway Museum (*upgrade offered*)
- Visit to the National Media Museum, Bradford
- Journey on Keighley & Worth Valley Steam Railway
- Free time in York and Haworth
- Services of a tour driver
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

Scarborough, Whitby and York

Four days departing September 18



PRICE FROM **£219**

- Return coach travel
- Three nights half-board accommodation
- Visits to Scarborough, Whitby, York and Harrogate
- Optional excursion on North Yorkshire Moors Railway
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

The Edinburgh Military Tattoo, Rail and Steam

Four days departing August 21 and 28



PRICE FROM **£299**

- Return coach travel
- Three nights bed and breakfast accommodation
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- Ticket to the Edinburgh Military Tattoo
- Visits to Edinburgh, Aberfoyle and Gretna Green
- Return journey on the Bo'ness and Kinneil Railway
- Circular cruise on the SS Sir Walter Scott
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

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In Search of the Northern Lights

Evening excursion
departing November 9, Feb 2 and 3, 2016



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- Flight in search of the Northern Lights
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- Services of a tour manager

Please note the Northern Lights are a natural phenomenon which cannot be guaranteed to appear during the flight, although they have been visible on many previous outings
Organised by Omega Holidays (ATOL 6081)

André Rieu and the Johann Strauss Orchestra in London

Two days departing December 22



PRICE FROM **£195**

- Return coach travel
- Overnight bed and breakfast accommodation
- Ticket (face value £40) for André Rieu and the Johann Strauss Orchestra in concert at Wembley Arena (*upgrades offered*)
- Return coach transfers from the hotel to Wembley
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Newmarket Holidays (ABTA V787X)

Wimbledon

Two days departing July 11 and 12



PRICE FROM **£155**

- Return coach travel
- Overnight bed and breakfast accommodation
- Full day at Wimbledon with a reserved seat on No. 1 court
- Visit to Windsor
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Make your own way breaks are also offered
Organised by Newmarket Holidays (ABTA V787X)

Afternoon Tea at The Houses of Parliament

Four days departing Aug 14, Sep 18, Oct 9



PRICE FROM **£299**

- Return coach travel
- Three nights half-board accommodation
- Afternoon Tea in the Terrace Pavilion of the House of Commons
- Guided tour of the Houses of Parliament
- Visits to Kenwood House, Kensington Palace and St Albans
- Visit to the Royal Air Force Museum, London
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

Lake Garda

Eight days various departure dates



PRICE FROM **£349**

- Return flights
- Seven night's bed and breakfast accommodation at a choice of hotels
- Half-board offered at some hotels for a supplement
- Optional excursions offered
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Newmarket Holidays (ABTA V7812, ATOL 2325)

Moselle Valley by Eurostar

Six days various departure dates



PRICE FROM **£529**

- Return rail connections to London
- Return standard class seat on Eurostar
- Five nights half-board accommodation
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- Guided walk of Trier
- Visits to Koblenz, Bernkastel and Cochem
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Riviera Travel (ABTA V4744, ATOL 3430)

Krakow

Four days various departure dates



PRICE FROM **£439**

- Return flights
- Three nights bed and breakfast accommodation
- Guided sightseeing tour of Krakow
- Visit to the castle district
- Visit to Auschwitz-Birkenau (included but optional)
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Riviera Travel (ABTA V4744, ATOL 3430)



Off-duty police will step in to tackle yobs

OFF-DUTY police stepped in more than 50 times in the first three months of this year to help public transport users and staff deal with yobs.

West Midlands Police officers assisted train, bus and tram staff to deal with angry fare dodgers or people intimidating other passengers a total of 52 times.

Off-duty officers have also spoken to people smoking on buses and engaging in sexually explicit or offensive conversations.

Most interventions ended with people being removed from the service, while six people were arrested for public order offences.

Inspector Lee Gordon said: "West Midlands Police officers can travel for free on public transport by displaying their warrant card – it's a deal that means off-duty officers regularly travel unseen on transport and are on hand should tempers rise.

Arrests

"In the majority of cases people immediately calm down and are compliant on realising they are face-to-face with a police officer, but on some occasions officers have been required to make off-duty arrests.

"Their presence deters crime and nuisance behaviour, while increasing public confidence in the safety and security of public transport."

Of the incidents, 32 were on a train, 15 on buses and five on the Midland Metro.

Chamber calls for 'bold' move to devolve power

THE Black Country's leading business organisation is calling for 'bold' decisions from the new Conservative Government to help companies invest and grow.

The Black Country Chamber of Commerce is looking for more moves towards devolving powers to the West Midlands region, particularly in the key areas of skills and transport.

Black Country Chamber of Commerce president, Ninder Johal, said: "Businesses in all parts of the United Kingdom want to see a pro-growth, pro-enterprise programme – building on the positive steps taken, and lessons learned, during the Coalition years.

"The Conservatives now have a clear mandate to take bold and important decisions, and must use it to help British businesses invest and grow. In return, business stands ready to work with the new government to deliver prosperity, jobs and sustained economic growth. The political complexion of the West Midlands cannot result in missed opportunities for local businesses and we call on our local MPs to ensure the UK continues to grow."

Kevin Rogers, vice president at the Black Country Chamber, said: "The election result may have been a surprise to some but the stability that the outcome potentially offers is welcomed by business.

By Simon Penfold

"How we in the Black Country respond to the opportunities offered will depend on how we work together to produce a very clear picture of the region's role in the global economy.

Sustainable

"It is very important we seize every opportunity to define and develop a unique and sustainable place for the Black Country."

Mike Dell, who leads the Black Country Chamber of Commerce Devolution Group, said: "West Midlands businesses want more control of the factors that influence their future, namely transport and skills.

"We want to realise our vision for the region by working with partners to get the right powers into local hands and we want the private sector leading the way.

"The time for ineffective bureaucratic superstructures is over."

Mini mania as show is motoring success



Winner of the 1964 Monte Carlo Rally in a Mini, Paddy Hopkirk, at the British Mini Club Show that was held at Himley Hall

A MINI show was really motoring after attracting one of its best turnouts at the weekend.

The British Mini Club staged the event at Himley Hall, near Dudley, and it was attended by 2,000 Mini enthusiasts. There were more than 300 cars on display.

Dave Hollis, a member of the club's Midlands branch, said: "It was very good. We were very pleased. It was probably the best weather we have had for about five years."

Among special guests was 82-year-old Paddy Hopkirk, who won the 1964 Monte Carlo Rally in a Mini Cooper

S with Henry Liddon. The show featured a premier class concours competition with 12 different classes to choose from, catering for every model of Mini both old and new.

There was a Mini Show 'n' Shine display, again with sections for classic and modern models of the iconic car.

Atlantic bridge for businesses

A NEW daily flight from New York to Birmingham has been hailed as an important link for West Midlands businesses.

The direct flight will provide almost 100,000 seats per year between Birmingham Airport and JFK with companies such as JLR, JCB, Cadbury and Kraft able to benefit from better links to the United States. Quicker access to the top country for aerospace means greater scope for manufacturers in the Midlands looking to export.

Paul Kehoe, Birmingham Airport chief executive, said: "This new route will not only create more capacity to this vibrant US business and tourist destination, it will also broaden connectivity across North America and Canada."

University's £250m investment in area

THE University of Wolverhampton is splashing out £250 million over the next five years in a 'once in a lifetime' investment to boost economic growth and job prospects across the Black Country.

Bosses at the university feel they have a key role to play in the future of Wolverhampton and the Black Country. They want to create jobs in industry and bring new employment to the area in an investment project that has been two years in the making.

Vice-chancellor Professor Geoff Layer said: "We're in a position of unparalleled strength."

Money will be spent on a host of projects, including a £10m health college in West Bromwich.

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Blur whip up a treat for the fans

ALBUM REVIEWS

By Leon Burakowski

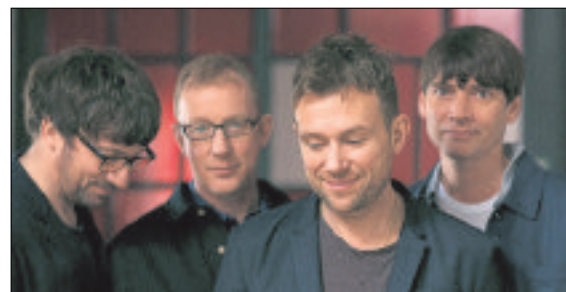
BLUR fans must be grinning from ear to ear after hearing the Britpop sensations (southern section) return on their comeback album *The Magic Whip*.

The last Blur album, *Think Tank* in 2003, was missing Graham Coxon but he's back to provide the ying to Damon Albarn's yang on this album recorded in Hong Kong — so fans get a balance of Albarn's experimental tendencies with Coxon's surefooted sonic dynamism. Highlights include *Lonesome Street*, with Albarn back in cocky Cockney mode and the trademark Blur of *I Broadcast*. It's the tracks hinting at 21st century angst, *There Are Too Many Of Us* and *Pyongyang* that really hit home.

Rabble-rousing rock 'n' roll is the speciality of *Palma Violets*, somehow splicing together the punk ethic of *The Clash* with the rhythm and booze of *The Faces* and *The Libertines*' loose appeal on their second album *Danger At The Club*. Right after the pensioners' sing-along opener, the London band's intention is apparent on the swaggering *Hollywood (I Got It)*. Other prime cuts include *The Kinks-ish Peter & The Gun* and *Coming Over To My Place*.

It sounds like *Django Django* are anticipating another summer of love on this art school outfit's second album, *Born Under Saturn*, which brims over with psychedelic pop delights. There's a hint of 'Madchester' on *First Light* and an air of *Kuala Shaker* (remember them?) about *Found You*. If you like such new psychedelic pop outfits as *The Temples* and *Tame Impala*, don't hesitate, get *Born Under Saturn* now.

Californian trio *Mini Mansions* (in-



Blur are back with their first album in 12 years, picture: Linda Brownlee

cluding *Queens of the Stone Age* bassist Michael Shuman) pay homage to the 1970s in a hi-tech 21st century way on their second album *The Great Pretenders*. Opening with the T Rex meets Goldfrapp stomp of *Freakout!* the golden years of glam inform a set of likeable songs which wear their influences — ranging from Bowie to Sparks via ELO — with pride. Guest singers include Alex Turner from Arctic Monkeys and former Beach Boy Brian Wilson.

Former Beatles drummer *Ringo Starr* has an enjoyable nostalgic time on *Postcards From Paradise*, particularly on *Rory And The Hurricanes* as he recalls his pre-Beatles rock 'n' roll band. Starr mates help out on guitar, including Joe Walsh, Dave Stewart and Peter Frampton. It adds up to pleasant if unmemorable soft rock excursion.

Welwyn Garden City trio *The Subways* mark ten years since their debut with a fresh-as-a-daisy blast of punk-pop energy on their self-titled fourth album. The thrashing yet melodic sound features a welcome contrast of vocals from Billy Lunn and bassist Charlotte Cooper. Despite the band's English

small town roots, this is firmly in the American tradition, so should appeal to fans of *Fall Out Boy*, *Green Day* and *All Time Low*. The most exhilarating track is *I'm In Love and It's Burning My Soul* (now that's an emo title) and the catchiest is the should've been a chart-topper *Taking The Blame*.

Liverpudlian indie popsters *The Wombats* are eager to please with their third album *Glitterbug*, packing more hooks than an anglers' shop and with lots of surging guitars and bubbling synths. The irreverent humour of their earlier albums — this was the band that sang about dancing to Joy Division — is largely missing from this slick offering. Includes the Euro dance-floor friendly *Give Me A Try*.

Tyneside sisters *The Unthanks* (Rachel and Becky) are firmly in the folk tradition but their beautiful voices must surely find a wider audience with *Mount The Air*. They do not betray their Northumbrian heritage but their melancholy sound with its spiritual core has an appeal beyond a single genre. Songs such as *Maggie* send a shiver down the spine.

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Lulu



Tuesday, 7pm
Symphony Hall, B'ham
 Sixties pop icon Lulu visits Symphony Hall as part of her first solo tour in over ten years, performing all her hits alongside the songs that have influenced her life.
 Visit www.thsh.co.uk

Desi Rockstars



Saturday, 7.30pm
Barclaycard Arena, B'ham
 For the first time in the UK, experience the Desi Rockstars tour! It will feature the Punjabi film and music superstar Gippy Grewal (pictured), and music superstar Sharry Mann.
 Visit www.barclaycardarena.co.uk

Yamato Drummers



Sunday, 7.30pm
New Alexandra Theatre, B'ham
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 Visit www.rafmuseum.org.uk

ROCK & POP

Lulu
 Tue at 7pm, £28.50 - £45
 Symphony Hall, Birmingham,
 B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

Don McLean - The American Troubadour
 Sat at 7.30pm,
 £33.50 - £37.50
 Symphony Hall, Birmingham,
 B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

Elio Pace performs
 Sat at 7.30pm, £15 - £19
 Palace Theatre, Redditch,
 B98 8AE. Call 01527 65203

Take That
 Fri, Sat at 7.30pm,
 £61.20 - £94.20
 Genting Arena, Birmingham,
 B40 1NT. Call 0121 780 4141

Bryan Ferry
 Wed at 7.30pm, £35 - £65
 Symphony Hall, Birmingham,
 B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

The Neil Diamond Story
 Wed at 7.30pm, £12 - £15.75
 Palace Theatre, Redditch,
 B98 8AE. Call 01527 65203

Gin Annie Band
 Fri at 7.30pm, £8.50 - £10
 The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
 Call 01902 401211

Rock 4 Spon 4
 Sat at 7.30pm, £6 - £7
 The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
 Call 01902 401211

Cloudbusting
 Fri at 6.30pm, £13.50
 O2 Academy Birmingham,
 B1 1DB. Call 0121 622 8250

InMe - Trilogy Tour 2015
 Fri at 7pm, £13.20
 Wolverhampton Slade Rooms,
 WV1 1HP. Call 01902 552106

Awake By Design
 Sat at 7pm, £6.60
 Wolverhampton Slade Rooms,
 WV1 1HP. Call 01902 552106

182 - Tribute to Blink 182
 Thu at 7pm, £6.60
 Wolverhampton Slade Rooms,
 WV1 1HP. Call 01902 552106

Jesse Malin
 Tue at 7pm, £13.50
 O2 Academy Birmingham,
 B1 1DB.
 Call 0121 622 8250

Ozric Tentacles
 Wed at 7pm, £16.87
 O2 Academy Birmingham,
 B1 1DB.
 Call 0121 622 8250

Alive & Kicking UK
 Sat at 7.30pm, £10
 Newhampton Arts Centre,
 Wolverhampton, WV1 4AN.
 Call 01902 572090

Quadrophonia Night
 Sat at 8pm, £14 - £16
 Artrix, Slideslow Drive,
 Bromsgrove, B61 1PQ.
 Call 01527 577330

Marcia Griffiths & Friends
 Sat at 9pm, £30.93
 O2 Academy Birmingham,
 B1 1DB. Call 0121 622 8250

J. Cole plus Pusha T, Jhene Aiko
 Fri at 7pm, £35.01 - £39.51
 Barclaycard Arena,
 Birmingham, B1 2AA.
 Call 0121 780 4141

Swervedriver
 Fri at 8pm, £7
 O2 Academy Birmingham,
 B1 1DB. Call 0121 622 8250

Slaves
 Mon at 7pm, £10.00 Adv
 The Institute, Digbeth,
 Birmingham, B5 6DY.
 Call 0121 643 0428

FOLK & ACOUSTIC

Traditional Music Sessions
 Sun at 8pm,
 Prince Of Wales, Moseley,
 Birmingham, B13 8EE.

The Jigantics
 Thu at 8.30pm, £5
 Pelsall Cricket & Sports Club,
 Walsall, WS11 1DE.
 Call 01922 682018

Lucy Spraggan
 Sat at 6pm, £14.50 Adv
 The Institute, Digbeth,
 Birmingham, B5 6DY.
 Call 0121 643 0428

Sandpiper Folk Club Night
 Wed at 7.45pm, £2
 Pigot Arms, Pittingham,
 WV6 7BQ. Call 01902 700207

CoCo & The Butterfields
 Sun at 7.30pm, £10
 Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath,
 Birmingham, B14 7JZ.
 Call 0844 870 0000

Brewood Acoustic Club Singers' Night
 Thu at 8pm, £2 (£1 singers)
 Brewood Cricket Club,
 ST19 9HX.
 Call 01902 850422

Tom Paxton - 50 Years On
 Fri at 7.30pm, £26.50
 Birmingham Town Hall,
 B3 3DQ.
 Call 0121 780 3333

Irish Session
 Wed at 8pm, Free
 Katie Fitzgerald's, Wollaston,
 Stourbridge, DY8 3TB.
 Call 01384 374410

Breabach
 Sat at 8pm, £10 - £12
 mac, Cannon Hill Park,
 Birmingham, B12 9QH.
 Call 0121 446 3232

JAZZ & BLUES

Paul Lamb & The Detroit Breakdown
 Wed at 7.30pm, £10 - £12
 The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
 Call 01902 401211

The Harp Live Jazz (May)
 Sun at 12pm - 2.30pm, Free
 The Harp Hotel, Albrighton,
 Wolverhampton, WV7 3JF.
 Call 01902 374381

RNB & SOUL

Clare Maguire
 Fri at 8pm, £7
 The Glee Club, Birmingham,
 B5 4TD. Call 0871 472 0400

CLASSICAL & OTHER MUSIC

Desi Rockstars - Live In Concert
 Sat at 7.30pm, £33 - £113.20
 Barclaycard Arena,
 Birmingham, B1 2AA.
 Call 0121 780 4141

A Night at the Oscars
 Fri, Sat at 7.30pm, £10 - £14
 Prince Of Wales Centre,
 Cannock, WS11 1DE.
 Call 01543 578762

Clare Teal
 Sat at 7.30pm, £19.50
 Birmingham Town Hall, B3 3DQ.
 Call 0121 780 3333

CBSO Parsifal
 Sun at 3pm, £25 - £55
 Symphony Hall, Birmingham,
 B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

Takács Quartet
 Tue at 7.30pm, £9.50 - £35
 Birmingham Town Hall, B3 3DQ.
 Call 0121 780 3333

THEATRE

Dirty Dancing
 Fri, Sat, Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu
 at 7.30pm, Wed at 2pm, Sat at
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 Birmingham Hippodrome,
 B5 4TB.
 Call 0844 338 5000

Sex in Suburbia
 Sat, Sun at 7.30pm,
 £18 - £24.90
 Lichfield Garrick, WS13 6HR.
 Call 01543 412121

Something Else
 Fri at 11am, £5
 Arena Theatre, Wulfruna Street,
 Wolverhampton, WV1 1SE.
 Call 01902 321321

Ghost
 Fri, Sat at 7.30pm, Sat at 2.30pm,
 £15.50 - £21.50
 Wolverhampton Grand Theatre,
 WV1 1DE.
 Call 01902 573320

Twelve Angry Men
 Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu at 7.30pm,
 Wed at 2.30pm, £10.50 - £27
 Wolverhampton Grand Theatre,
 WV1 1DE. Call 01902 573320

Pygmalion
 Fri, Sat at 7.30pm,
 £9.50 - £12
 The Rose Theatre,
 Kidderminster, DY10 2RX.
 Call 01562 743745

Yamato Drummers
 Sun at 7.30pm,
 £16.90 - £30.90
 New Alexandra Theatre,
 Birmingham, B5 4DS.
 Call 0844 871 3011

Judy - The Judy Garland Story
 Thu at 7.30pm,
 £12.90 - £38.90
 New Alex, Birmingham, B5 4DS.
 Call 0844 871 3011

The Rise And Fall of Little Voice
 Fri, Sat at 7.30pm, Mon, Wed,
 Thu at 7.30pm, Tue at 7pm, Thu
 at 2pm, £7 - £35
 Birmingham Repertory Theatre,
 B1 2EP. Call 0121 236 4455

Dirty Rotten Scoundrels
 Fri, Sat at 7.30pm, Sat at 2.30pm,
 £15.50 - £53.40
 New Alexandra Theatre,
 Birmingham, B5 4DS.
 Call 0844 871 3011

The Long Road
 Fri, Sat at 7.45pm, Sat at 2.45pm,
 £6 - £11
 The Crescent Theatre,
 Birmingham, B16 8AE.
 Call 0121 643 5858

Kiss Me Kate
 Fri, Sat at 7.30pm, Sat at 2.30pm,
 £13 - £16
 The Crescent Theatre,
 Birmingham, B16 8AE.
 Call 0121 643 5858

Blood
 Tue, Wed, Thu at 8pm,
 £8.50 - £13.75
 Birmingham Repertory Theatre,
 B1 2EP. Call 0121 236 4455

Chewing The Fat
 Fri, Sat at 8pm, £9 - £15
 Birmingham Repertory Theatre,
 B1 2EP. Call 0121 236 4455

Cardboard Citizens: Benefit
 Fri at 8pm, £10 - £12
 mac, Cannon Hill Park,
 Birmingham, B12 9QH.
 Call 0121 446 3232

Births, Deaths and Marriages
 Wed at 7.30pm, £4 - £6
 Arena Theatre, Wulfruna Street,
 Wolverhampton, WV1 1SE.
 Call 01902 321321

Birmingham Cabaret Festival
 Fri, Sat at 8pm, Wed, Thu at 8pm,
 £10
 The Old Joint Stock,
 Birmingham, B2 5NY.
 Call 0121 200 1892

Grimethorpe Colliery Band 2015
 Sun at 3pm, £21.40 - £22.40
 Birmingham Town Hall, B3 3DQ.
 Call 0121 780 3333

DANCE

35th Anniversary Gala
 Thu at 7.30pm, £10.50 - £58
 Lichfield Garrick, WS13 6HR.
 Call 01543 412121

Edge15
 Fri at 8pm, £10 - £12
 Artrix, Bromsgrove, B61 1PQ.
 Call 01527 577330

COMEDY

An Evening with Pam Ayres
 Fri at 7.30pm, £23 - £23.75
 Lichfield Garrick, WS13 6HR.
 Call 01543 412121

Thu at 7.30pm, £23 - £23.75
 Palace Theatre, Redditch,
 B98 8AE. Call 01527 65203

An Evening with Gervase Phinn
 Thu at 7.30pm,
 £17.50 - £19.50
 Stafford Gatehouse Theatre,
 ST16 2LT. Call 01785 254653

Henning Wehn: EINS, ZWEI, DRY
 Fri, Sat at 8pm, £16 - £17
 Stafford Gatehouse Theatre,
 ST16 2LT. Call 01785 254653

Acorns Comedy Fundraiser
 Wed at 6.15pm, £40
 The Glee Club, Birmingham, B5
 4TD. Call 0871 472 0400

OTHER EVENTS

Big Fat Quiz Night!
 Thu at 5pm, Free
 Subside Bar, Paradise Place,
 Birmingham, B3 3HJ.
 Call 0121 212 0211

The Quiz
 Tue at 7.30pm, Free
 Katie Fitzgerald's, Wollaston,
 Stourbridge, DY8 3TB.
 Call 01384 374410

Open Cockpits Evening
 Fri, Sat at 6pm - 9pm, £10 -
 £12.50
 Royal Air Force Museum,
 Cosford, Shifnal, TF11 8UP.
 Call 01902 376 200

The Baby Show with madeformums.com
 Fri, Sat, Sun at 9.30am - 5pm,
 The NEC Birmingham, B40 1NT.
 Call 0121 780 4141

The Robin 2 Record & CD Fair
 Sun at 11am - 4pm, Free
 The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
 Call 01902 401211

Open Mic Night
 Mon at 8.30pm, Free
 Katie Fitzgerald's, Wollaston,
 Stourbridge, DY8 3TB.
 Call 01384 374410

Check out full listings in **the ticket** in Friday's Express & Star

Big noise from the Black Country

THE latest big noise out of the Black Country, drum and guitar duo God Damn, will unleash their pure attacking sound in Birmingham on Saturday night — just days after the release of their debut album *Vultures*.

Wolverhampton's Thom Edward (guitars/vocals) and Ash Weaver (drums) describe themselves as 'rock music for degenerates' with bludgeoning riffs and furiously propulsive percussion.

The band began life in the Black Country as a three-piece, until bassist and founder Dave Copson dropped out due to health reasons. But the duo already have plans to expand into a three-piece again and maybe even beyond that.

They will be in concert on Saturday at the Sunflower Lounge on Smallbrook Queensway, celebrating the release of their fearsome debut on One Little Indian, Bjork's label, this week.

The title track — described as 'ferocious' — will be released as a single on May 25.

God Damn's influences include Nirvana, The Pixies and At The Drive In, whilst they swear allegiance to the 'Seven J's' — Hendrix, Homme, Cash, White, Page, Bonham and Jesse 'The Devil' Hughes, of Eagles of Death Metal.

Their set up has naturally drawn comparisons with Royal Blood and Slaves. They have played shows with the latter, as well as Funeral For A Friend, The Wytches, Eagulls and Turbowolf, among others.



Wolverhampton hard rock duo God Damn, Thom (right) and Ash

"We're a noisy band — we're probably the noisiest band in Britain right now but you can't have heaviness without the lighter touch. Dynamics are important," says Thom.

They described their album *Vultures* as "everything we hoped for and so much more".

"Broadly speaking, the album explores lyrical themes such as egotism, anti-capitalism, loss," says Thom. "It's important to write each new song different from the last."

"Angry and abrasive is good but you can't do that all the time or you'll go mad."

Singer gets Doris's vote

FORMER Wolverhampton student Clare Teal and her Hollywood Orchestra celebrate Doris Day with a tribute to the living legend at Birmingham Town Hall on Saturday.

Yorkshire jazz singer Clare will be revisiting Doris's professional life, from her early days with Les Brown and his Band of Renown to her massive hit songs when Queen of Hollywood and her pop success in the 1960s.

Songs include Secret Love, Move Over Darling, Deadwood Stage and Que Sera Sera. "I've been a big fan of the great lady's from being a tiny tot," says Clare.

Parcel

"I was selling CDs after a gig in Clacton when a smartly dressed woman asked me to sign the CD she had just bought, 'of course, who's it for love?' The answer: Doris Day. I looked up thinking, really — in Clacton? I signed the CD and went on my merry way. Months later I had an email from Annie of Clacton to say Doris had enjoyed my record. A lovely parcel arrived in the post containing a signed CD from Doris herself. This now takes pride of place in the office."

Doris, now 91, lives in retirement in Carmel, California, dedicating much of her energy to animal welfare projects.

Clare became a familiar voice on radio as presenter of BBC Radio 2's Big Band Special. The Skipton lass discovered jazz via her grandmother's record collection and studied music at Wolverhampton Polytechnic (now university) before entering show business singing jingles. She has been associated with Big Band Special for 11 years. See www.thsh.co.uk or call 0121 780 3333 for tickets.



'A big fan of the great lady's since a tiny tot'

Ghost melodies unchained again

WEST Bromwich Operatic Society are staging a much-loved movie turned musical this week at Wolverhampton's Grand.

WBOS opened with *Ghost The Musical* last night (Wednesday), based on the Patrick Swayze and Demi Moore movie, and it continues to Saturday. There are 7.30pm performances plus a 2.30pm matinee on Saturday.

The show includes classic scenes from the film about a loving couple not being separated by death thanks to a dodgy psychic.

A spokesperson said: "Our aim as an amateur company has been to continue performing in professional theatres and to keep the standard of productions as high as possible."

Classic courtroom drama at the Grand

AMERICAN courtroom drama *Twelve Angry Men* stars popular TV actor Jason Merrells as the righteous Juror 8 at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre from Monday to Saturday.

Reginald Rose's play became a movie classic with Henry Fonda in 1957. The revival was a hit at Birmingham Rep with Martin Shaw returning to his home city to play Juror 8. It has since been a West End success with Shaw and Tom Conti.

Jason Merrells, a star of *Casualty* and *Waterloo Road* before becoming *Emmerdale* villain Declan Macey, plays the one juror pitted against 11 with a life at stake.

Totally wired for alt-rock veterans

ALTERNATIVE rock veterans The Fall, the late great John Peel's favourite band, are in concert tonight (Thursday) at Birmingham venue The Institute. The band fronted by Mark E Smith released their 31st album, *Sub-Lingual Tablet*, on Cherry Red Records on Monday.

Founder Smith is the one constant since the band started in Manchester in 1976. The Fall is known for his distinctive vocals, cryptic lyrics and unique sound.

Other gigs include a sell-out by Slaves at The Institute, Digbeth, on Monday and Jesse Malin at O2 Academy 3 on Tuesday with new album *New York Before The War*.

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Unspoiled beaches, such as this one at Porto Katsiki, is one of the main attractions



Enjoying eating out at a restaurant near Kalamitsi



It's addictive – you have just got to try windsurfing in Vassiliki



Stunning views are guaranteed

Lefkas – this is the relaxing, unspoilt holiday area that you dream about

ASIDE from the hum of cicadas, punctuated by the odd dog barking and cockerel crowing, it's completely silent.

It's the same on the empty roads, where all the signs are in a foreign language, with very few of the customary English translations you so often expect to see in this part of the world.

There are no sprawling resorts and strips of neon nightclubs, just picture-perfect towns occupied by a few tavernas, shops and hotels. It's a far cry from the stereotypical image of a Greek getaway. Lefkas might be the fourth largest Ionian island, but it's the unspoilt stuff of your dreams.

Our accommodation is the perfect example of the trademark seclusion of Lefkas. From our private poolside terrace, we can sit with a glass of the local wine, enjoying

By Ellen Manning

views of the capital, Lefkas Town, and across the water to the mainland.

With the nearest neighbour a few hundred metres away, and the pool hidden from view, it's the perfect place to relax. But it's not just the peace and quiet that makes Lefkas different from other islands.

Freedom

Just 21 miles long and nine miles wide, Lefkas – which some people also refer to as Lefkada – was a peninsula of Arcanania until it was split by a 28m canal excavated by the Corinthians in 640BC. Now you come and go across a swing-bridge that joins the mainland to the island, enjoying the feeling and culture of being on a Greek island with the freedom to easily explore further afield. Not that there isn't plenty to do on Lefkas.

Divided by the towering Mount Stavratos, each corner of the island has its own character – from the sheltered east coast with family-friendly beaches, to the crashing waves and steep cliffs of the dramatic west coast, with lush rolling countryside dotted with deserted windmills and watermills in between.

It's here, inland, where you can really soak up the unbelievably slow pace.

Kavalos, the sleepy hamlet where our windmill lies, is the perfect example. From morning to evening, nothing seems to change, except the addition of a few Greek men outside what appears to be a bar.

The island's capital is far from a bustling metropolis. We accidentally arrive during siesta and wander around the narrow streets, thinking we're in one of those films where the whole world has suddenly disappeared. The low-key nature of the island

brings its own low-key tourist attractions. Near to the windmill, we hunt for the Melissa Gorge, a small gorge opened up by the local authority and given a paved route running past ruined watermills and windmills. After three days of searching we finally find it, directed on a tiny road sign.

On the other side of the island, just outside the tourist resort of Nidri, a picturesque harbour filled with boats clamouring to take people on tours of the nearby tiny islands, are the Rachi waterfalls. Not on Niagara levels, more a slow trickle.

Boating is the start of quite a lot of water-orientated action on Lefkas. The southern resort of Vassiliki is internationally recognised as one of the leading windsurfing resorts in Europe. And then there's the beaches. A tour of the famous west coast takes in some of the most impressive sights such as Kathisma Beach and Porto Katsiki.

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CHOICE



Alexander Armstrong

Pointless Celebrities BBC1, 6.10pm
Alexander Armstrong and Richard Osman host another star-studded round of the unorthodox general knowledge quiz, this time with a 'British Film' theme. The celebrities aiming to come up with obscure answers this time are Quadrophena stars Phil Daniels and Leslie Ash, Trainspotting and Shallow Grave actor Keith Allen, Gregory's Girl actress Clare Grogan, Mean Machine's Vas Blackwood, This is England's Thomas Turgoose, comedian, impressionist and screenwriter Phil Cornwell and Sally Thomsett, who played the youngest Waterbury sibling, Phyllis, in the 1970 adaptation of The Railway Children.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. 10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Paul Hollywood's Bread. (R) **12.00** BBC News; Weather. **12.10** Football Focus. **12.50** Saturday Sportsday. **1.00** Athletics. **2.00** Live Challenge Cup Rugby League. Leeds Rhinos v Huddersfield Giants (Kick-off 2.30pm). **4.30** Final Score. Jason Mohammad presents a round-up of the classified results. **5.20** Celebrity Mastermind. With Mark Thompson, Cheryl Baker, Guy Henry and Timothy Bentinck. (R) **5.50** BBC News. **6.00** Regional Programme. **6.10** **Pointless Celebrities.** Alexander Armstrong and Richard Osman challenge actors from classic British films, including Phil Daniels, Leslie Ash and Thomas Turgoose, to take part in the unorthodox quiz show. **7.00** **Atlantis.** Double bill. Jason is determined to rescue his fellow prisoners from the amphitheatre, and makes a daring return to Atlantis, which is becoming an ever more dangerous realm under Paspheas's villainous rule. The hero and his friends face treachery at every turn, and come to realise that the only hope for the future is to kill the queen. Jack Donnelly stars. Last in the series. **8.30** **The National Lottery: In It to Win It.** New series. Dale Winton returns with the big-cash quiz show. Includes the Lotto and Thunderball draws with Kate Garraway, and a performance by Ella Eyre. **9.20** **Casualty.** Charlie goes to Bucharest with Connie to find his missing son, whom he discovers is addicted to heroin and will go to desperate lengths to pay his debts to some shady characters. **10.10** **BBC News.** Weather. **10.30** **Match of the Day.** Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League clashes, including Queens Park Rangers v Newcastle United and Sunderland v Leicester City; National Lottery Update. **11.55** **Live at the Apollo.** Hal Cruttenden hosts an evening of stand-up at the Apollo in Hammersmith, London, introducing routines by Justin Moorhouse and Tom Stade. (R) **12.25** **Film:** The 51st State. (2001) Action comedy, with Samuel L Jackson and Robert Carlyle. **1.50** Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.55** BBC News.

BBC2

6.20 Animal Park. (R) **6.50** **Film:** In Search of the Castaways. (1962) **8.30** **Film:** The Charge of the Light Brigade. (1968) **10.20** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **11.20** Escape to the Country. (R) **12.05** Living Famously. (R) **1.05** **Film:** Rope. (1948) Hitchcock thriller, with Farley Granger and John Dall. **2.25** James Mason: Talking Pictures. (R) **3.05** **Film:** North By Northwest. (1959) Hitchcock thriller, starring Cary Grant. **5.20** Flog It! (R) **6.20** **Gardeners' World.** (R) **6.50** **Modern Times: The Great British Garden Watch.** Documentary about a new breed of amateur naturalists who go to extreme lengths to capture the secret lives of the animals in their gardens. (R) **7.50** **Britain's Greatest Generation.** The united spirit of the Second World War, which saw women adopt roles previously filled by men, and rescue workers and volunteers risk all to save those injured in the Blitz. (R) **8.50** **Dad's Army.** With the Walmington-on-Sea Home Guard now established, Captain Mainwaring sets about trying to get equipment for the platoon. (R) **9.20** **Film: Alan Partridge: Alpha Papa.** (2013) Premiere. The hapless local radio DJ ends up in the centre of a crisis when a colleague gets fired by the station's new owners, only to respond by returning to the studio with a shotgun and taking hostages. The police enlist Alan's aid as a negotiator, giving him the chance to revive his own flagging public profile. Comedy, starring Steve Coogan, Colm Meaney and Sean Pertwee. **10.45** **Rory Bremner's Election Report.** The impressionist is joined by John Bird, Matt Forde and Sara Pascoe to reflect on the events of the general election and look forward to what lies ahead. (R) **11.15** **W1A.** David Wilkes seeks help in fleshing out the concept for new show One Big Family, and new Head of Inclusivity Lucy Freeman tries to "viralize" Muslim BBC Weather. Last in the series. (R) **11.45** **Film: In the Loop.** (2009) A witless government minister gets out of his depth in international politics after suggesting a war is imminent. Satirical comedy, starring Peter Capaldi. **1.30** This is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITY: Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. **6.25** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **7.00** Canimals. (R) **7.15** Sooty. (R) **7.30** Super 4. (R) **7.45** Nerds & Monsters. (R) **8.00** Thunderbirds Are Go. **8.25** **ITV News.** **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **10.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **11.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **12.30** **ITV News: Weather.** **12.35** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **1.40** Doc Martin. (R) **2.40** Who's Doing the Dishes? (R) **3.40** **Film:** Freaky Friday. (2003) Disney comedy remake, starring Jamie Lee Curtis and Lindsay Lohan. **5.35** Regional Programme; Weather. **5.45** **ITV News; Weather.** **6.00** **New You've Been Framed! Hall of Framed.** Harry Hill narrates a comical selection of some of the funniest clips featured on the show to celebrate the series' 25th anniversary. Featuring everything from giddy grandmas, cute kids and crazy animals to below-the-belt mishaps, practical jokes and painful-looking accidents. **7.00** **Ninja Warrior UK.** Ben Shephard, Rochelle Humes and Chris Kamara host the first semi-final of the nationwide endurance contest, giving past winners a chance to return to the obstacle course for a chance to once again tackle the heights of Mount Midoriyama – and claim the title of Ninja Warrior UK. **8.00** **Britain's Got Talent.** Simon Cowell, David Walliams, Amanda Holden and Alesha Dixon preside over proceedings as the hunt for Britain's next star entertainer reaches the sixth round of auditions. Ant and Dec are on hand to introduce the acts, and to congratulate or commiserate with them once the judges have passed their verdict. **9.20** **Play to the Whistle.** Guests AP McCoy, Jonathan Ross and Brooke Vincent join Holly Willoughby and her regular panellists for another edition of the sports-based comedy panel show. **10.05** **ITV News; Weather.** **10.20** **Film: The Break-Up.** (2006) A couple's relationship comes to an end, but neither wants to give up their home, forcing them to carry on living together. Comedy drama, starring Jennifer Aniston. **12.15** Jackpot247. **3.00** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) **3.40** **ITV** Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.15 How I Met Your Mother. (R) **6.40** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **7.05** Tarawera Ultra Marathon. **7.30** **FIM Superbike World Championship.** **8.00** The Morning Line. **9.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **10.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **10.30** Frasier. (R) **11.00** Frasier. (R) **11.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.25** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD. (R) **1.25** Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage from Newbury and Newmarket. **4.15** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.45** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.15** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.45** Come Dine with Me. (R) **6.15** Come Dine with Me. The final dinner party from Northampton. (R) **6.40** Channel 4 News. **7.00** **Cornwall: Walking Through History.** Tony Robinson takes a four-day trek along the coastline between Plymouth in Devon and Falmouth, learning about the thriving smuggling trade in Cornwall during the late 18th century. The area's tiny secretive harbours, beaches and secluded coves were ideal for illicit imports such as tobacco and brandy, and the business was so huge it threatened the national economy. Last in the series. (R) **8.00** **The World's Most Extreme.** An exploration of the most unusual airports on the planet, including a runway squeezed between skyscrapers and a landing strip carved into mountains. **9.00** **Film: The Hunger Games.** (2012) A totalitarian future-America holds an annual nationally televised event in which two children from each of its regions fight to the death until only one remains. A teenage girl takes her younger sister's place in the games and must pit her wits against the deadly combat skills of her rivals. Sci-fi adventure, starring Jennifer Lawrence. **11.50** **Film: Underworld: Awakening.** (2012) Vampire Selene awakes from cryonic suspension to battle mutant werewolves and a human plot to annihilate the undead. Action fantasy, with Kate Beckinsale and India Eisley. **1.30** Alan Carr: Chatty Man. (R) **2.25** Hollyoaks. (R) **4.35** Double Your House for Half the Money. (R) **5.30** The Common Denominator. (R) **5.55** How I Met Your Mother. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.00** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. **10.35** Cowboy Builders & Bodge Jobs. (R) **11.30** Britain's Horror Homes. (R) **12.30** The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door. (R) **1.25** The Hotel Inspector. (R) **2.25** **Film:** Columbo: The Most Dangerous Match. (1973) Detective drama, with Peter Falk and Laurence Harvey. **3.55** Cats Make You Laugh Out Loud 2. (R) **4.55** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R) **5.50** 5 News Weekend. **5.55** Police Interceptors. (R) **6.45** **Film: Spider-Man 3.** (2007) A sinister alien parasite brings out the web-slinging hero's darker side, filling him with thoughts of revenge on his uncle's murderer, the shape-shifting Sandman. Meanwhile, he also has to contend with the challenge of his best friend following in his father's villainous footsteps – and a jealous rival developing superpowers of his own. Superhero sequel, with Tobey Maguire, Kirsten Dunst and James Franco. Edited to reduce violence, flashing images and end credits. **9.20** **Big Brother: Timebomb.** Daily round-up of highlights, revealing how the housemates are getting on under the all-seeing eye of Big Brother, featuring the latest tasks, games, arguments, laughs, diary room visits and bedroom chit-chat. Narrated by Marcus Bentley. **10.20** **CSI: Crime Scene Investigation.** A teenager is found dead in a public toilet, and an crime on his phone leads the team to the daughters of a crime lab director, who both seem to have been abducted by the killer. **11.15** **NCIS.** The murder of a marine's wife is shown live on the internet and inquiries point to two housewives who were running their own pornographic website, but have since vanished. (R) **12.15** SuperCasino. Viewers get the chance to take part in live interactive gaming, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team. **3.10** Big Brother: Timebomb. Daily round-up of highlights, featuring the latest tasks, games, arguments, laughs, diary room visits and bedroom chit-chat. (R) **4.00** Cats Make You Laugh Out Loud 2. Presenters Dave Spiky and Zoe Lyons introduce a second compilation of the internet's most popular cat videos. With animal behaviour therapist Professor Peter Neville. (R) **4.50** Make It Big. (R) **5.45** Angels of Jarm. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three **7.00** Top Gear **8.00** How to Win Eurovision **10.00** Happy Valley **11.00** Family Guy **1.15** Murder in Successville **1.45** Nick Helm's Heavy Entertainment **2.15** Bluestone 42 **3.45** Great British Mistakes V: Revenge of the Fifth **4.00** Close **BBC Four** **7.00** Survivors: Nature's Indestructible Creatures **8.00** Wild Arabia **9.00** 1864 **11.00** Queen: Days of Our Lives **12.00** Metal at the BBC **12.30** Guitar Heroes at the BBC **1.30** Wild Arabia **2.30** Survivors: Nature's Indestructible Creatures **3.30** Close **ITV2** **11.15** Britain's Got Talent **12.35** Britain's Got More Talent **1.35** Catchphrase **2.20** **Film:** Kindergarten Cop (1990) **4.30** Mr Bean **5.40** **Film:** King Kong (2005) **9.20** Britain's Got More Talent **10.20** Celebrity Juice **11.05** Britain's Got Talent **12.20** Britain's Got More Talent **1.20** Hell's Kitchen **2.55** Teleshopping **5.55** **ITV2** Nightscreen **ITV3** **12.30** **Film:** Evil Under the Sun (1982) **2.50** Wycliffe **3.55** **Film:** Columbo: Etude in Black (1972) **6.00** Lewis **8.00** Doc Martin **9.00** Foyle's War **11.00** Inspector Morse **1.20** Wire in the Blood **2.15** **ITV3** Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping **ITV4** **11.45** Pawn Stars **1.05** Gunsmoke **2.15** **Film:** The Cimarron Kid (1952) **4.00** British Touring Car Championship Highlights **5.50** Pawn Stars **6.00** Storage Wars: New York **7.00** Shed and Buried **8.00** **Film:** Thunderball (1965) **10.45** **Film:** On Deadly Ground (1994) **12.50** **Film:** Bowfinger (1999) **2.25** Tommy Cooper **2.50** **ITV4** Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping **E4** **11.00** Baby Daddy **12.00** New Girl **1.00** The Goldbergs **2.00** How I Met Your Mother **2.55** **Film:** Maid in Manhattan (2002) **5.00** Made in Chelsea **6.00** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** **Film:** She's All That (1999) **11.00** Rugglebox **12.00** The Inbetweeners **1.10** Ruggle Tube: Mash'd 'n' Mixed **2.15** 2 Broke Girls **2.40** How I Met Your Mother **3.25** Rules of Engagement **3.50** New Girl **4.40** Make It or Break It **Film4** **11.00** Appointment in London (1952) **1.00** Rio (2011) **2.50** Flash Gordon (1980) **5.00** City of Ember (2008) **6.50** Definitely, Maybe (2008) **9.00** The A-Team (2010) **11.20** The Raid (2011) **1.20** Mirrors (2008) **3.35** Close



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CHOICE



Marc Warren

Jonathan Strangé & Mr Norrell
BBC1, 9pm
New series. At the beginning of the 19th century, the world no longer believes in magic - until the reclusive Mr Norrell stuns the people of York by making statues surrounding the city's cathedral speak and move. Meanwhile, the rich and charming Jonathan Strangé, more interested in wine and women than reading dusty old books, discovers that he too has magical powers. As the duo's stories intertwine, they embark on a fantastic journey involving mystical creatures, the reanimation of the dead and war with Napoleon's French Empire. Fantasy based on Susanna Clarke's novel, starring Marc Warren.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. 7.30 Match of the Day. (R) 9.00 The Andrew Marr Show. 10.00 The Big Questions. 11.00 Sunday Politics. 12.15 MOTD2 Extra. With Mark Chapman and the Match of the Day team.
1.00 50c News. Weather. **1.15 Bargain Hunt. (R) 1.55 Homes Under the Hammer. (R) 2.55 Escape to the Country. (R) 3.25 Shark. (R) 4.25 Lifestile. 4.35 Points of View. 4.50 Songs of Praise - School Choir of the Year. 5.35 RHS Chelsea Flower Show 2015.**
6.35 BBC News.
6.50 Regional Programme.
7.00 Countryfile. Anita Rani returns to her home town of Bradford to explore the rural gems on her own doorstep and the journey that has been made for centuries from the urban sprawl to the fresh air of the nearby moors. She also presents archive films featuring stories where town meets country, including Matt Baker taking to the dizzying heights of the Avon Gorge in Bristol. Including Weather for the Week Ahead.
8.00 Antiques Roadshow. Fiona Bruce and the team visit Barrington Court in Somerset, where discoveries include a toy Noah's Ark from the 1920s, an Elizabethan wine jug found at a car-boot sale and a £12 charity shop bracelet that dates back to the Victorian era. Among the other finds are a 16th-century silver cup constructed around a carved coconut, a vial of smelling salts with a mystery compartment and a collection of ceramic brewery figures that have seen better days.
9.00 Jonathan Strangé & Mr Norrell. New series. The lives of two magicians become intertwined with the fate of 19th-century England. Fantasy based on Susanna Clarke's novel, starring Eddie Marsan and Bertie Carvel.
10.00 BBC News.
10.20 Regional Programme.
10.30 Match of the Day 2. Mark Chapman reviews the latest Premier League action, featuring Swansea City v Manchester City and Manchester United v Arsenal.
11.35 Athletics. The Shanghai Golden Grand Prix. Action from the second Diamond League event of the season, held at the Shanghai Stadium in China.
12.35 Weather for the Week Ahead. 12.40 BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 Homes Under the Hammer. 6.30 The Big Allotment Challenge. (R) 7.30 Countryfile. (R) 8.30 Gardeners' World. (R) 9.00 The Beechgrove Garden. 9.30 Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. 11.00 Mary Berry's Absolute Favourites. (R) 11.30 Paul Hollywood's Bread. (R) 12.00 Film: Scott of the Antarctic. (1948) Fact-based drama, starring John Mills. **1.45 Live Challenge Cup Rugby League. Wakefield Trinity Wildcats v Leigh Centurions (Kick-off 2.15pm). **4.30 Trillion.**
6.00 Hotel India. The Taj Mahal Palace in Mumbai is one of India's oldest and most famous hotels and is where the super-rich go to be treated like the maharajahs of the country's past. This documentary was filmed over the course of six months and goes behind the scenes with the 1,500-strong staff as they respond to every whim and demand of the guests. In the first episode, general manager Gaurav and executive housekeeper Indrani spend days making countless checks ahead of VIP visits to the luxurious Tata suite, while oil trader Captain Bhasin hosts a cocktail party in his rooms. (R)
7.00 A Very British Airline. Documentary about the inner workings of British Airways, exploring how the airline tries to persuade people to spend more by flying first class. (R)
8.00 Demolition: The Wrecking Crew. New series. Documentary following crews bringing down some of the country's biggest buildings, including the demolition of the 100m cooling towers of Diddcot A power station.
9.00 The Detectives. New series. The work of a police team focusing on sex offences, beginning with a historic abuse investigation into a DJ accused of a string of sex offences in the 1960s and 1970s. Continues tomorrow.
10.00 Film: Made in Dagenham. (2010) The female employees of a 1960s British car firm lead a national strike, demanding the right to equal pay. Fact-based comedy drama, starring Sally Hawkins.
11.45 Film: Hideous Slinky. (1998) A single mother decides to uproot her two children and head for Morocco in the hope of finding spiritual fulfilment. 1970s-set drama, starring Kate Winslet.
1.20 Sign Zone: Countryside. (R) 2.20 Holby City. (R) 3.20 This is BBC Two.**

ITV

6.00 CITV: Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. 6.25 Pat & Stan. (R) 6.35 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) 7.00 Canimals. (R) 7.15 Sooty. (R) 7.30 Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. (R) 8.30 ITV News. 8.30 Weekend. 9.25 Judge Rinder. (R) 10.20 Judge Rinder. (R) 11.25 Judge Rinder. (R) 12.25 ITV News: Weather. 12.30 Tipping Point. (R) 1.30 Britain's Got Talent. (R) 2.45 All Star Family Fortunes. (R) 3.50 Midsomer Murders. (R) 5.50 Ninja Warrior UK. (R) **6.45 Regional Programme: Weather.
7.00 ITV News: Weather.
7.15 Celebrity Squares. Sarah Millican, Ana Matronic, Joe Lycett, Tess Daly, Rickie Haywood-Williams, Melvin Odom and Milton Jones join Tim Vine and Joe Wilkinson in the grid. Warwick Davis hosts.
8.00 Sunday Night at the Palladium. Jimmy Carr hosts the variety show, with music by Markus Feehily, Rebecca Ferguson and Deacon Blue, a dance routine from Vincent and Flavia, and comedy from Rob Beckett.
9.00 Home Fires. The impact of the war begins to be felt in Great Paford as the women are forced to make sacrifices for the salvage effort. But soon matters on the personal front replace their efforts on the home front as Kate and Jack's relationship intensifies. Pat's marriage deteriorates and Claire finally plucks up the courage to ask Spencer out - unaware he is hiding a secret that could ruin their relationship before it has even started. Meanwhile, Alison resorts to desperate measures to pay a bill, and soon realises her actions will cost her much more. Wartime drama, with Claire Rushbrook, Daisy Badger, Rachel Hurd-Wood and Fenella Woolgar.
10.05 ITV News: Weather.
10.15 Perspectives: The Great American Love Song with Nicky Campbell. The broadcaster reveals his passion for the music of 1920s and 1930s New York, choosing six timeless love songs from the era and finding out about the artists who wrote them.
11.15 Premiership Rugby Union. Action from the 22nd and final round of fixtures.
12.10 The Store. 2.30 Motorsport UK. 3.20 The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) 4.00 ITV Nightscreen. 5.05 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)**

CHANNEL 4

6.20 How I Met Your Mother. (R) 6.40 How I Met Your Mother. (R) 7.05 Volkswagen Racing Cup. 7.35 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.00 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.30 Frasier. (R) 9.00 Frasier. (R) 9.30 Sunday Brunch. 12.30 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces. **1.30 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 2.00 The Simpsons. (R) 2.30 The Simpsons. (R) 3.00 Film: The Parent Trap. (1998) Comedy remake, starring Lindsay Lohan. **5.35 A Place in the Sun: Home or Away. 6.30 Channel 4 News.**
6.20 Speed with Guy Martin. The motorcycle racer and lorry mechanic attempts, with the aid of slipstreaming, to break the British record for outright speed on a bicycle - 110mph. Guy recruits a team comprising a truck racer, a bike builder and a design engineer to prepare for the feat, and undergoes a training regime with double Olympic cycling gold medalist Laura Trott before heading to Pendine Sands on the shores of Carmarthen Bay for his challenge. (R)
8.00 For the Love of Cars. The lads celebrate Swedish cars, which they claim to be the unlikely trailblazers of motoring. Philip Glenister gets to live out a childhood dream when he gets behind the wheel of the Volvo P1800 from Roger Moore's 1960s TV series The Saint, and they visit the renowned Millbrook testing ground to put a 25-year-old Saab 900 Turbo through its paces.
9.00 Grayson Perry's Dream House. Documentary following the creation of Grayson Perry's biggest and most ambitious work of art to date - the building of a secular chapel in tribute to Essex women.
10.00 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown. Jimmy Carr hosts the comedy panel show's version of the famous quiz, with team captains Sean Lock and Jon Richardson joined by guests Kathy Burke and Kevin Brides. (R)
11.05 Jimmy Carr: Laughing & Joking. (R)
12.10 Film: Hyde Park on Hudson. (2012) 1.45 Undercover Boss Canada. (R) 2.35 Born Naughtier? (R) 3.30 Phil: Secret Agent Down Under. (R) 4.25 The Renovation Game. (R) 5.20 Hugh's 3 Good Things: Best Bites. (R) 5.30 The Common Denominator. (R) 5.55 How I Met Your Mother. (R)**

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. 6.05 Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) 6.20 Angelina Ballerina. (R) 6.30 Pip Ahoy! (R) 6.45 The Mr Men Show. (R) 6.55 Chloe's Closet. (R) 7.05 Roodbarb and Custard Too. (R) 7.15 Make Way for Noddy. (R) 7.25 Paw Patrol. (R) 7.40 Little Princess. (R) 7.50 Milkshake! Monkey. (R) 7.55 Wanda and the Alien. (R) 8.05 Milkshake! Pop Box. (R) 8.10 Zack and Quack. (R) 8.25 Oily the Little White Van. 8.30 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) 8.40 Mio Mao. (R) 8.45 Jelly Jam. (R) 9.00 LazyTown. (R) 9.30 Dora and Friends. (R) 10.00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) 10.35 Access. 10.40 The Dog Rescuers. (R) 11.05 Police Interceptors. (R) 12.05 Police Interceptors. (R) **1.05 Police Interceptors. (R) 2.00 Film: The Money Pit. (1986) Comedy, starring Tom Hanks and Shelley Long. **3.45 Film: See No Evil, Hear No Evil. (1989)** A blind man and his deaf friend go on the run to escape a trumped-up murder charge and crooks tracking down a top-secret microchip. Comedy, starring Richard Pryor and Gene Wilder. Edited to reduce language, nudity, innuendo and violence.
5.40 Film: The Great Escape. (1963) Allied prisoners held in a supposedly escape-proof detention camp plan an ingenious mass breakout. Second World War drama, with Steve McQueen, James Coburn and Richard Attenborough.
8.50 5 News Weekend.
9.00 Big Brother: Timebomb. Daily round-up of highlights, revealing how the housemates are getting on under the all-seeing eye of Big Brother, featuring the latest tasks, games, arguments, laughs, diary room visits and bedroom chat. Narrated by Marcus Bentley.
10.00 Film: The Rock. (1996) An FBI chemical weapons expert and a jailed SAS veteran must break into Alcatraz to bring down a renegade general and his men. Action thriller, with Sean Connery.
12.40 Film: Bangkok Dangerous. (2008) A hitman in Thailand questions his way of life, while his employer plots to have him killed when his work is done. Action thriller remake, with Nicolas Cage. **2.30 SuperCasino.** Viewers get the chance to take part in live interactive gaming, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team. **4.00 House Doctor.** Ann Maurice and Alistair Appleton present more highlights from the series, recalling a basement flat in north London desperately in need of tidying up. Last in the series. (R) **4.25 Make It Big. (R) 5.45 Angels of Jarm. (R)****

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Top Gear 8.00 Don't Tell the Bride 9.00 Russell Howard's Good News 10.00 Tatau 11.25 Family Guy 12.10 Murder in Successville 12.40 American Dad! 1.00 Family Guy 1.25 Nick Helm's Heavy Entertainment 1.50 Russell Howard's Good News 2.20 In Deep 2.35 Tatau
BBC Four
7.00 Operation Jericho 8.00 Fighting for King and Empire: Britain's Caribbean Heroes 9.00 Burma. My Father and the Forgotten Army 10.00 Easter Island: Mysteries of a Lost World 11.30 Je t'aime: The Story of French Song with Petula Clark 12.30 Shirley Bassey at the BBC 1.30 Imagine: Dame Shirley Bassey: The Girl from Tiger Bay 2.30 Operation Jericho 3.30 Close
ITV2
3.30 Film: Legally Blonde 2: Red, White and Blonde (2003) 5.35 Britain's Got Talent 6.55 Britain's Got More Talent 8.00 You've Been Framed! Presents 9.00 Film: 21 Jump Street (2012) 11.15 Film: The Matrix Reloaded (2003) 1.45 Fake Reaction 2.20 Teleshopping 5.50 ITV2 Nightscreen
ITV3
1.25 A Touch of Frost 3.40 Film: Clockwise (1986) 5.35 Wycliffe 6.40 Inspector Morse 9.00 The Best of the Royal Variety 10.00 Vicious 11.05 Film: Steptoe and Son (1972) 1.05 Like Father, Like Son 2.20 Judge Judy 3.20 ITV3 Nightscreen 3.40 Emmerdale
ITV4
12.35 Pawn Stars 2.55 Gunsmoke 4.00 Film: Shalako (1968) 5.15 Film: The Cimarron Kid (1952) 8.00 Premiership Rugby Union 9.00 Film: National Lampoon's Loaded Weapon 1 (1993) 10.45 Film: The Jerk (1979) 12.40 Hell on Wheels 2.15 Tommy Cooper 2.40 Movies Now 2.50 ITV4 Nightscreen
E4
12.30 Made in Chelsea 1.35 Melissa & Joey 2.30 How I Met Your Mother 3.30 Brooklyn Nine-Nine 4.00 The Goldbergs 5.00 Film: Three Men and a Cradle (1987) 7.00 The Big Bang Theory 10.00 Gogglebox 11.00 The Inbetweeners 12.10 Virtually Famous 1.00 Channel 4's Comedy Gala 2014 2.10 New Girl 2.55 Rules of Engagement 3.15 The Cleveland Show 3.40 Hollyoaks
Film4
11.00 Sea Devils (1953) 1.00 The Legend of Zorro (2005) 3.40 The Hunt for Red October (1990) 6.30 Hugo (2011) 9.00 Braveheart (1995) 12.25 Under Siege 2: Dark Territory (1995) 2.25 The Day He Arrives (2011) 4.00 Close

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FILM CHOICES

MONDAY
The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas, BBC2, 11.20pm
Bruno, a boy in Nazi Germany, moves to the country when his father is placed in charge of a concentration camp. While exploring the woods close to the facility's boundary, he spots a Jewish youngster being held there, and the two become friends – but Bruno remains innocently oblivious to the camp's true purpose. Drama, starring David Thewlis. (2008)

TUESDAY
The Resident, BBC1, 11.45pm
A doctor moves into a spacious new apartment, and becomes attracted to her landlord. However, she does not realise he is becoming dangerously obsessed with her, constructing elaborate hiding places to spy on her. His behaviour becomes increasingly sinister, and her reconciliation with her ex-boyfriend drives him into a murderous rage. Horror, with Hilary Swank. (2011)



The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas, Monday, BBC2, 11.20pm

WEDNESDAY
Robot & Frank, BBC1, 11.15pm
An elderly jewel thief struggles to look after himself as his memory starts to fail him. His busy son invests in a robot carer to look after the old man, but the retired crook sees the machine as the perfect partner for one last heist. Sci-fi comedy drama, starring Frank Langella and James Marsden. (2012)

THURSDAY
The Other Man, BBC1, 11.45pm
After his wife's death, a man learns she was having an affair when he discovers provocative photos of her with another man. He resolves to track down her lover and exact his revenge, but when he confronts the man about his misdeeds, he instead strikes up an unlikely friendship, making him question whether he should continue with his vengeful scheme. Drama, starring Liam Neeson and Antonio Banderas. (2008)

FRIDAY
Fletch, ITV, 10.40pm
A wisecracking reporter and master of disguise investigates a man who falsely claims to be dying and is asking people to kill him. Comedy mystery based on Gregory McDonald's novel, with Chevy Chase and Tim Matheson. (1985)

The stars are out to shine on a night of celebration

Life is rarely quiet in Walford, Westhertford, Emmerdale, Hollyoaks, or the Doctors' town of Letherbridge, but 2015 has been even more dramatic than usual.

So after 12 months of crying their mascara all down their faces, emerging dazed from realistic-looking wreckage and praying they don't forget their lines ahead of a big live episode, it's time for the soap stars to put on their glad rags and celebrate at The British Soap Awards 2015.

As Phillip Schofield, who is hosting the awards from the Palace Theatre in Manchester, says: "What a year it's been in soap land – we've had some brilliant storylines and acting that's absolutely kept the nation gripped."

"It's my 10th anniversary as host of The British Soap Awards this year so I'm really looking forward to an incredible night that's sure to be one to remember."

Last year's awards were largely dominated by Coronation Street and the heartbreaking demise of Hayley Cropper. Julie Hesmondhalgh and her on-screen husband David Nelson won

Best Actress and Actor respectively (with an additional Doctor Who Performance award for Neilson), as well as Best Storyline, Episode and On-Screen Partnership, although the coveted Best British Soap award was snatched by Hollyoaks.

This year though, many seasoned soapwatchers will probably be expecting Coronation Street to take a backseat to its arch-rival EastEnders.

In February, the BBC's flagship soap celebrated its 30th anniversary with a live week, culminating in the revelation that Lucy Beale had been murdered by her little brother. In fact, there was so much going on, some fans barely had the chance to register the news that Kathy Beale, believed to have died off-screen in 2006, was still alive.

Luckily, the awards judges were taking note as her comeback has been nominated for Scene of the Year. There's also a nod for the live episode, while Eliot Carrington, who plays pint-sized killer Bobby Beale, is up for Best Young Performance, and John Altman's 'Nasty' Nick Cotton, who finally breathed his last that week, is up for Best Villain.

However, like the soaps themselves, these awards are usually full of twists and surprises, and there could be some major upsets.

It's also been a spectacular year for Hollyoaks, which brought us a dramatic train crash. Emmerdale gave us the deaths of Katie Sugden and Donna Dingle, while Doctors saw the reunion of Rob and Karen.

Whatever happens, it's going to be an emotional evening, especially as many viewers will be expecting tributes to soap legend Ann Kirkbride, aka Deirdre Barlow, who died in January.

But it might also be a time to look ahead to what's in store for the future, and speculate about forthcoming storylines.

And given that we recently found out that Kat Moon once gave birth to twins without realising and kindly former vicar's wife Laurel Dingle is now a raging alcoholic, it seems safe to say that no matter how many gongs they pick up, the nation's serials won't be taking it easy during the rest of 2015.

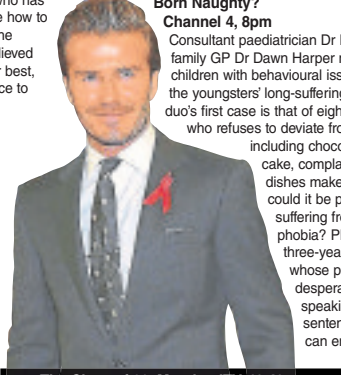


The British Soap Awards 2015, Thursday, ITV, 8pm

BEST OF THE REST

in glamorous outfits – in fact, the trend is so widespread that following last year's one-off documentary, Channel 5 is now bringing us an entire series devoted to it. In this first episode, we meet mum-of-three Lisa Marie Whitcombe, who is entering two of her daughters into a beauty pageant, and Candi Donaldson, who has already taught six-year-old Frankie how to put on make-up and false nails. The mothers also explain why they believed that by making their tots look their best, they are giving them the confidence to face the world.

WEDNESDAY
Inspector George Gently BBC1, 8pm
It's Christmas Eve 1969 and Gently is enjoying a spot of festive cheer until he gets the news that a bank has been hit by armed robbers and he and Bacchus have work to do. The detective's hunt for the gunmen takes him into the world of skinheads and he is later faced with a dilemma. Does the law always have to be so cruel, or



The Class of 92, Monday, ITV, 10.40pm

can he bend it just this once? Detective drama set in the north-east of England, starring Martin Shaw and Lee Ingleby, with a guest appearance by Jody Latham (Shameless). Last in the series.

THURSDAY
Born Naughty? Channel 4, 8pm
Consultant paediatrician Dr Ravi Jayaram and family GP Dr Dawn Harper meet more children with behavioural issues, as well as the youngsters' long-suffering parents. The duo's first case is that of eight-year-old Bobby, who refuses to deviate from a diet including chocolate, chips and cake, complaining that other dishes make him feel unwell – could it be possible he is suffering from a food phobia? Plus, the story of three-year-old Jessi-Jai, whose parents are desperate for her to start speaking in proper sentences so they can engage in conversations together.

FRIDAY
Mysteries of the Bible: Mary Magdalene Channel 5, 8pm
From the writing of the New Testament to the filming of The Da Vinci Code, Mary Magdalene is one of the most controversial figures in the Bible. She features in the Gospels and is present at many of the important moments recorded in Jesus's life, including the crucifixion and the resurrection. However, she also got a reputation as a harlot and fallen woman, mainly dating from a sixteenth-century sermon delivered by Pope Gregory. In this documentary, author Margaret Starbird sets out to investigate claims made in recent years that not only was Mary the wife of Christ, but also the mother of His children. Starbird also examines the role women may have played in the early Christian church.

Mary Berry's Absolute Favourites BBC2, 8pm
The veteran cook focuses on recipes inspired by her love of the countryside. Mushrooms are one of Mary's favourite ingredients and she goes foraging for wild varieties in the New Forest, before cooking garlic mushrooms on toasted brioche and mushroom Scotch eggs – ideal for a country picnic hamper.

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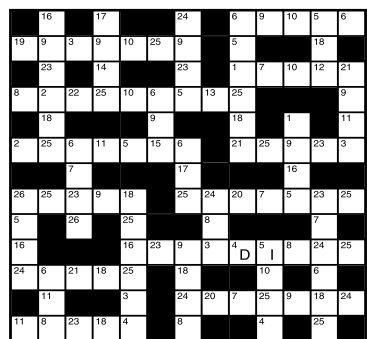
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BRAIN GYM No.325

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

M	X	W	E	A	T	H	Z	N	L	Y	B	J
S	U	Q	F	V	P	G	D	O	R	K	I	C

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

Cryptic Clues:

Across

- Teaches one way to confiscate (7)
- Gloss over (8)
- I'd note a friend in the best possible way (7)
- Swedish girl riding around (6)
- Smile wryly when given the wrong directions (6)
- Sailors in the drink (8)
- If done it might be reported (8)
- First two letters posted away (6)
- Base Shakespearean character (6)
- Little of the court's time will be taken by this group of dissipated people (4,3)
- Be inclined to receive support from others? (4,2)
- Back the other side (7)

Down

- She robbed her sleeping partner of his capital assets (7)
- Bounty - and it's a big ship too (7)
- Possibly deigns to draw (6)
- Sent about ten cents as a deposit (8)
- Its passengers will be late (6)
- As yet unalarmed? (6)
- They secure temporary accommodation (4,4)
- Friendly? Far from it! (7)
- Very hard worker supports a mother (7)
- A variety of bread to cause friction (6)
- Sting to anger (6)
- Smoothed out on board perhaps (6)

Quick Clues:

Across

- Versus (7)
- Fairness (6)
- Dry (7)
- Easy (6)
- Mar (6)
- Sit astride (8)
- Ludicrous (8)
- Ripe (6)
- Bewilder (6)
- Trust (7)
- Rely (6)
- Make good (7)

Down

- Endure (7)
- Resume (7)
- Phlegmatic (6)
- Magnificence (8)
- Revenue (6)
- Sleigh (6)
- Guardian (8)
- Charged (6)
- By now (7)
- In abundance (6)
- Beat (6)
- Talented (6)

Sudoku

		5	1				6	2
	6		5		9			
	1	3				7	9	
	3			1			5	8
7			6		5			
	8	6		9	4			2
			3		7			6
5	2	7			8	1		

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

2	4	3	7	1	6	5	9
7	1	3	6	9	5	8	2
9	6	5	4	8	2	3	7
6	7	4	5	1	8	9	3
3	9	7	2	4	5	6	8
8	5	2	9	6	3	1	4
1	2	7	8	5	6	4	9
4	8	6	2	3	9	7	1
5	3	9	1	4	7	2	6

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Second-class; 9 Ant; 10 Lower-case; 11 Paced; 13 Epistle; 14 Minute; 16 Ugly; 18 Deepest; 19 Might; 20 Underhand; 21 Too; 22 Prime number. Down: 2 End; 3 Oiled; 4 Dawmed; 5 Larking; 6 Startling; 7 Happy medium; 8 Penetration; 12 Contender; 15 Theorem; 17 Strain; 19 Madam; 21 Toe. QUICK - Across: 1 Opinionated; 9 Met; 10 Spectator; 11 Array; 13 Observe; 14 Superb; 16 Pennon; 18 Detests; 19 Dodge; 20 Rebellion; 21 Gas; 22 Never-ending. Down: 2 Put; 3 Nasty; 4 Oberon; 5 Artiste; 6 Enthroned; 7 Ambassadors; 8 Free and easy; 12 Reputable; 15 Resolve; 17 Aspire; 19 Dined; 21 Gun.

Quiz

- What is the ninth sign of the zodiac?
- What is a turkey brown?
- In which country is Casablanca?
- In which ship did Drake circumnavigate the world in 1577-80?
- Who wrote the play Hay Fever?
- In which war was the Battle of Borodino?
- Who painted The Laughing Cavalier?
- In which country was Albert Einstein Born?
- What is the capital of Sicily?
- What was the pen-name of the Irish writer Brian O'Nolan?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Hera; 2 1837; 3 Kenya; 4

Beethoven; 5 Four; 6 Kentucky; 7 Argon; 8

Anthony Trollope; 9 Dr. No; 10 Hamlet.

Niner: RELATIONS

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

5287334 gives an animal,
5611 gives a bird,
79948 gives a snake.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---



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- * FOUR bedrooms
- * En-suite & house bathroom
- * Good size rear garden
- * Garage and driveway
- * EPC Rating - D

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £239,950

COSELEY

Flamborough Way

- * A MODERN DETACHED
- * Cul-de sac location
- * Kitchen and utility
- * Conservatory
- * FOUR bedrooms
- * En-suite & house bathroom
- * Rear Garden & driveway
- * EPC Rating - D

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £229,000

COSELEY

Pickrell Road

- * An impressive EXTENDED family home
- * Popular residential location
- * Lounge and dining room
- * FOUR double bedrooms
- * Garage and turning driveway
- * Upvc double glazed
- * Landscaped rear garden
- * NO UPWARD CHAIN
- * EPC Rating - D

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £172,000

THE STRAITS, LOWER GORNAL

Keats Close

- * A well presented semi-detached
- * 'Poets corner' of The Straits development
- * Over looking the playing green
- * Detached garage
- * Through lounge/diner
- * Upvc double glazed windows
- * Close by to The Straits primary school
- * An ideal family home
- * EPC Rating - D

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £171,000

WOODSETTON

Masfield Avenue

- * A BEAUTIFULLY presented semi
- * Quiet cul-de-sac location
- * Popular Bramford Estate
- * Extended modern breakfast kitchen
- * THREE bedrooms
- * Beautiful landscaped rear garden
- * Excellent size family home
- * Recently fitted new combi boiler
- * Off road parking
- * EPC Rating - C

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £164,950

LOWER GORNAL

The Straits

- * A traditional bay fronted semi-detached
- * Located on The Straits Rd in Gornal
- * Close by to Gornal Village centre
- * THREE bedrooms
- * An open plan style kitchen/diner
- * CONSERVATORY
- * Small garden to the rear
- * Upvc double glazed window
- * Parking for two cars
- * EPC Rating - D

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £157,500

LOWER GORNAL

Tennyson Road

- * A semi-detached in popular location
- * 'Poets corner' of The Straits development
- * In need of some modernisation
- * Through lounge/diner
- * Majority Upvc double glazing
- * Detached garage
- * Pleasant rear garden
- * NO UPWARD CHAIN
- * EPC Rating - D

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £156,950

ETTINGSHALL PARK

Farrington Road

- * A 'Mucklow' style semi-detached
- * Popular Ettingshall Park Estate
- * OPEN PLAN style lounge/diner
- * Three bedrooms & Family Bathroom
- * Private rear garden
- * Garage & driveway
- * EPC Rating - C

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £144,950

GORNAL WOOD

The Alley

- * A MODERN style semi-detached
- * Just off 'The Straits' development
- * Pleasantly located by country park
- * Lounge and conservatory
- * Modern kitchen
- * Upvc double glazing throughout
- * Gas central heating
- * Integral Garage
- * EPC Rating - D

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £144,950

COSELEY

Dimmocks Avenue

- * A THREE bedroom semi-detached
- * Refurbished to high standard
- * Open plan dining kitchen
- * Landscaped rear garden
- * Contemporary bathroom
- * Driveway for parking
- * Garage
- * NO UPWARD CHAIN
- * EPC Rating - D

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £139,950

COSELEY

Stretton Place

- * A beautifully presented semi-detached
- * Quiet corner plot in Woodcross
- * Close by to popular local schools
- * Refurbished to a high standard
- * Open plan dining kitchen
- * Utility room and guest wc
- * THREE double bedrooms
- * Large garden to side and rear
- * Ideal first time buy
- * EPC Rating - TBC

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £129,950

COSELEY

Brunel Court

- * A beautifully presented FAMILY HOME
- * Spacious accommodation
- * Dining Kitchen and lounge
- * FOUR BEDROOMS
- * Upvc double glazing
- * Garden with parking space
- * Contemporary bathroom
- * Quiet cul-de-sac location
- * EPC Rating - TBC

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New price

£309,950



Stourbridge, Old Quarter, Baylie Street
OVER THREE FLOORS: Lovely Substantial End of Period Terrace having GAS CENTRAL HEATING AND DOUBLE GLAZING briefly: Hall, Guests Cloakroom, Sitting Room, Dining Room, HUGE KITCHEN, Cellar, FOUR Bedrooms, Ensuite and Feature Bathroom. Garden. EPC E.

£275,000



Dudley, Gervase Drive
SPACIOUS, IMMACULATELY PRESENTED, DETACHED HOME located close to the Priory Ruins. Comprising: Hall, Sitting Room with Dining Area, Splendid Kitchen, Utility, Guest Cloakroom, THREE BEDROOMS, Bathroom, Driveway, Garage, Beautiful Garden EPC E

Offers in Excess of £239,950



NETHERTON, Church Road
THIS SUBSTANTIAL & STYLISHLY DECORATED, FOUR BEDROOM, DETACHED PROPERTY comprises: Porch, Hall, Guests Cloakroom, Sitting Room, Dining Room, Breakfast Kitchen, Four Bedrooms (Master En-Suite), Family Bathroom, DOUBLE GARAGE, Garden. EPC D

Offers in Excess of £239,950



SEDGLEY, Bath Street
EXCITING CONTEMPORARY DESIGN! - Fastidiously appointed recently built SPACIOUS detached Hall study lounge, OUTSTANDING Dining Kitchen Lobby laundry F/cloaks; FOUR Bedrooms (2 en-suite)bathroom DOUBLE GARAGE. EPC: C. SEDGLEY

New price

WAS £243,000, NOW £234,950



WORDSLEY, Oakleighs
Set beyond the FULL WIDTH DRIVEWAY within a desirable 'cul-de-sac', close to woods/ amenities, this DETACHED BUNGALOW includes 2 BEDROOM, a LARGE CONSERVATORY and requires updating, providing much potential to improve the spacious layout. EPC D

No upward chain

£164,950



Brierley Hill, John Street
THIS BEAUTIFULLY PRESENTED, MODERN, DETACHED HOME occupies a FINE CORNER SETTING and is appointed with a LOVELY KITCHEN and THREE GENEROUS BEDROOMS. Also comprising: Attractive Lounge, Guests Cloakroom, FAMILY BATHROOM, Driveway, Garage and Rear Garden. EPC: C

New price

£149,995



LOWER GORNAL, Grafton Gardens, Straits
Gas centrally heated, uPVC double glazed, intermediate "family home" within walking distance of village briefly comprising: hallway, living/dining room, rear hallway, store, upgraded kitchen, THREE GENEROUS BEDROOMS, reappointed bathroom, Garage, sheltered garden abutting on to woods. EPC: E. SEDGLEY

New price

WAS £149,950, NOW £146,000



QUARRY BANK, Woods Lane
THIS STYLISHLY DECORATED, SEMI-DETACHED PROPERTY is FURNISHED with a CONTEMPORARY WELL FITTED KITCHEN DINER and would make a FANTASTIC FAMILY HOME. Also comprising: Sitting Room, THREE BEDROOMS, Four Piece Bathroom, GARAGE, Lovely Garden. EPC:

£145,000



PENSNETT, Tansey Green Road
Forming part of this sought after and established address, this TRADITIONAL TWO BEDROOM SEMI-DETACHED HOME enjoys a CONSERVATORY together with a LARGE BLOCK PAVED DRIVEWAY, REAR DOUBLE GARAGE and a large rear garden. EPC E

£136,950



COSELEY, Pemberton Road
● Two Double Bedrooms
● Gas Centrally Heated
● Upvc Double Glazing
● Double Garage
● Private rear garden
● Close to Rail/Bus Routes
EPC Rating: E (SEDGLEY OFFICE)

Offers in the region of £116,450



WOODSETTON, Tipton Road
NO UPWARD CHAIN. Deceptively spacious two bedroom end of terrace benefitting from double glazing and gas central heating comprising: entrance hall, living room, kitchen/diner, two double bedrooms, family shower room, garden, off road parking to front. EPC: C. SEDGLEY

New price

WAS £117,995, NOW £115,000



NETHERTON, Parkfield Road
THIS EXTENDED AND WELL ARRANGED PROPERTY is available with NO UPWARD CHAIN and has the potential to create a REALLY DESIRABLE HOME. Briefly comprising: Porch, Sitting Room, Dining Room, Kitchen, THREE BEDROOMS, Bathroom, Paved Frontage (No Dropped Kerb) and Rear Garden. EPC: E

£109,950



NETHERTON, Hill Street
THIS VERY WELL PRESENTED AND EXPENSIVELY APPOINTED, THREE BEDROOM HOME is available with NO UPWARD CHAIN and comprises: Porch, Sitting Room, Impressive Kitchen with Defined Dining Area, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Separate W.C and Garden. EPC C

New price

£104,950



DUDLEY, Corbyn Road
AN IMPRESSIVE SEMI-DETACHED HOUSE WHICH is well placed, offering SUCCESSFULLY IMPROVED accommodation, all WELL APPOINTED, with TWO GOOD BEDROOMS. Set beyond the FULL WIDTH DRIVEWAY and with a LARGE REAR GARDEN. EPC D.

New price

offers in the Region Of £104,950



LOWER GORNAL, Haslingden Crescent

RECENTLY CONSTRUCTED! Spacious THREE DOUBLE BEDROOM, detached by David Wilson Homes (covered by balance of NHBC warranty) forming part of their Brecon View development with panoramic distant views. Stylish gas centrally heated uPVC double glazed accommodation provides reception hall, fitted cloakroom, upgraded breakfast kitchen with a fine range of chestnut effect units, generous lounge (with double French doors out to garden), THREE DOUBLE BEDROOMS (with en-suite to principal bedroom), bathroom, spacious garage, sheltered rear garden. EPC C. SEDGLEY



SEDGLEY, Ashen Close, Northway

ENVIABLY SITUATED backing on to & overlooking open fields with magnificent DISTANT VIEWS! Gas centrally heated (combi boiler), double glazed detached bungalow that has been tremendously upgraded to a superb specification, and with PLANNING CONSENT for rear extension comprising: entrance hallway, cloaks cupboard, refitted kitchen, 17'4" living/ dining room, inner hallway, store, two bedrooms (both with fitted units & principal bedroom with patio doors out to the garden), bathroom with white suite. Gated driveway, garage, and sheltered rear garden abutting on to fields. EPC: T.B.A. SEDGLEY



PENSNETT, Corbys Close

●OPEN DAY● SATURDAY 16th MAY FROM 11AM to 2PM; The subject of modernisation, this MUCH IMPROVED, DETACHED FAMILY HOME has NO UPWARD CHAIN. Comprising: Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, THREE BEDROOMS, Re-Fitted Bathroom. Garage, lengthy Garden. EPC D

Offers in the region of £217,500

Offers in the region of £189,950

Open day £159,950



KINGSWINFORD, Lesley Drive

AN IMMACULATE, BEAUTIFULLY IMPROVED DETACHED FAMILY HOME including FOUR BEDROOMS plus a CONSERVATORY, all attractively presented / appointed throughout and together with a LARGE DRIVEWAY, GARAGE and a beautifully landscaped garden. EPC D



WALL HEATH, Beachcroft Road

Delightfully located within this highly desirable address, this ATTRACTIVELY IMPROVED TRADITIONAL SEMI-DETACHED FAMILY HOME offers beautifully presented THREE BEDROOM layout, plus DRIVEWAY and an attractive, southerly facing garden. EPC D



QUARRY BANK, Sheffield Street

A RARE OPPORTUNITY TO ACQUIRE a beautifully presented and well arranged, DETACHED BUNGALOW RESIDENCE with DISTANT VIEWS. Within WALKING DISTANCE to local amenities and comprising: Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, THREE DOUBLE BEDROOMS, Bathroom and Rear Garden. EPC D



KINGSWINFORD, Buckingham Grove

Superbly located upon desirable 'Valleyfields', this TWO/THREE BEDROOM SEMI-DETACHED HOUSE offers a well presented layout which, although requiring some updating, provides FANTASTIC POTENTIAL plus a DRIVEWAY, GARAGE and beautifully secluded garden. EPC D



Brierley Hill, Moor Street

Situated within this ESTABLISHED ADDRESS, this WELL PRESENTED, EXTENDED, DETACHED HOME, benefits from THREE LARGE BEDROOMS and TWO RECEPTION ROOMS. Also comprising: Hall, Guests Cloakroom, Kitchen, Utility, Bathroom, Driveway, Substantial Garage and Rear Garden. EPC D

£212,500

£199,950

£174,950

No upward chain £174,950

£167,500



BRIERLEY HILL, Gordon Crescent

This ATTRACTIVE, TRADITIONAL HOME is DECEPTIVELY LARGE with THREE GENEROUS BEDROOMS and therefore makes a lovely FAMILY HOME. Comprising: Hall, Modern Kitchen, Dining Space, Sitting Room, Contemporary Bathroom, Driveway, Garage, Rear Garden. EPC: D



KINGSWINFORD, Wolverhampton Road

A VERY LARGE & STUNNING FIRST FLOOR LUXURY APARTMENT with GARAGE and PARKING SPACE, set within this converted period building, offering an EXPENSIVELY RE-APPOINTED, TASTEFULLY DECORATED LAYOUT and GENEROUS accommodation. EPC D



HOLLY HALL, Fullwood Crescent

WELL PRESENTED, SEMI DETACHED HOME includes GAS CENTRAL HEATING and UPVC DOUBLE GLAZING and comprises: Porch, Hall, Sitting Room with Dining Area, MODERN KITCHEN, Conservatory, Shower Room, Three Bedrooms, Garage and Large Rear Garden. EPC: D



TIPTON, Coneygree Road

Generously proportioned semi-detached property located on prominent corner position offering an excellent improvement opportunity. This THREE BEDROOM benefits from entrance hallway, good-sized living room, breakfast kitchen, utility area, guest w/c, shower-room. Parking & driveway to front with gardens to side and rear, part gas central heating and part uPVC double glazing. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC: TBC SEDGLEY



Kinver, White Harte Caravan Park

IN THE HEART OF THIS PRETTY VILLAGE: Great location for this DETACHED PARK HOME which has double glazing to comprise: Hall, Sitting Room, Kitchen, Double Bedroom and Shower Room. Block Paved Drive and Patio. 12 MONTH OCCUPANCY / NO UPWARD CHAIN.

£129,950

New price £129,950

New price £119,950

Offers in the region of £119,950

No upward chain £119,950



PENSNETT/LOWER GORNAL, Sandfield Bridge

Traditional intermediate terrace of character set in established district within convenient distance of so many amenities and facilities briefly comprising: TWO double bedrooms, two reception rooms, Kitchen, utility-area, guest WC, first floor bathroom, uPVC double glazed with the rare advantage of concrete panel GARAGE at rear and a garden beyond. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC: T.B.A. SEDGLEY



NETHERTON, St. Peters Road

This THREE BEDROOM, SEMI DETACHED HOME is situated within this respected NETHERTON address and offered for sale with NO UPWARD CHAIN. Comprising: Hall, Sitting Room with Dining Area, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom and Large Rear Garden. EPC D



Stourbridge, Wordsley, Brook Street

This MOST DECEPTIVE MID TERRACE HOME affords a versatile layout and GREAT POTENTIAL, with gas heating and double glazing: Hall, Sitting Room, Kitchen, Two Shower Rooms, Basement Room, Four Bedrooms. Rear Garden. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC D



HOLLY HALL, Hallchurch Road

This MODERN, WELL PRESENTED, TWO BEDROOM, END TOWNHOUSE may appeal to first time buyers AND buy-to-let investors and comprises: hall, lounge, dining kitchen, two bedrooms, bathroom, driveway, rear garden. NO UPWARD CHAIN EPC D



WOODCROSS, Kossuth Road

Mostly double glazed, gas centrally heated semi-detached comprising hall, lounge, extended dining kitchen, utility, three bedrooms, bathroom, driveway, lengthy rear garden. EPC: SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £104,950

New price Offers in Excess of £100,000

No upward chain £99,995

£89,950

New price WAS £98,750, NOW £89,950



Stourbridge Sales & Lettings : 01384 444 645

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Netherton and Dudley Sales & Lettings : 01384 456 022



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3 bed Highbridge Road, NETHERTON

NEW

A rare opportunity to buy this three bedroom semi detached property situated on a large corner plot with views across the local reservoir and with a detached garage. The extensively decorated accommodation comprises of a porch, large lounge, extended modern kitchen, utility room, second sitting room, dining room, guest w.c., first floor landing, three well proportioned bedrooms, house bathroom. Externally the property is surrounded by a well landscaped and attractive garden and has two block paved drives providing off road parking and access to the detached garage. An internal inspection is essential to fully appreciate this beautiful home.

EPC: D

Netherton Office Offers Around **£155,000**

4 bed Greenfels Rise, OAKHAM

A fantastic family home in a fantastic area. Situated in a quiet cul-de-sac this four bedroom detached home has a versatile array of accommodation as well as being in the catchment area for Oakham Primary School, within walking distance of the local Nature Reserve, Dudley Golf Course and Warren Hall Farm Riding Stables. Well presented accommodation comprises of impressive entrance hall, seven metre lounge, study, guest w.c., kitchen with dining area, ground floor bedroom, first floor landing, master bedroom with dressing area, two further bedrooms, large bathroom with corner bath and shower cubicle. Externally there is an attractive garden and driveway to the front, with steps leading down to the front door, a gated access gives pedestrian access to the rear garden, which has a patio, lawn garden and flower beds with fenced boundaries. Viewing highly recommended to fully appreciate the range of accommodation on offer here.

EPC: C

Netherton Office Offers Around **£237,500**

3 bed Upton Street, NETHERTON

NEW

A well presented and deceptively spacious three bedroom mid terrace property would make a great family home, first time buyer property or buy-to-let investment and has double glazed and gas centrally heated accommodation comprising of an entrance porch, hallway, L-shaped lounge with dining area, guest w.c., re-fitted kitchen with built in ironing board! On the first floor are three generously proportioned bedrooms and family bathroom. The property also benefits from a private gated rear garden providing off road parking to the rear. Viewing highly recommended.

EPC: C

Netherton Office Offers Around **£115,000**

3 bed Stourbridge Road, HALESOWEN

NEW

This spacious three-bedroom semi detached home is in a convenient location near to Windsor high school amongst others. Well presented accommodation comprises of entrance porch, reception hallway, lounge dining room, fitted kitchen, conservatory, first floor landing, three well proportioned bedrooms, house bathroom. To the front of the property is a large driveway providing off-road parking for a number of Vehicles. To the rear is an attractive garden with the patio area lawn garden all with fenced boundaries.

EPC: D

Netherton Office Offers Around **£159,950**

3 bed Ardley Close, DUDLEY

NEW PRICE

Set in a quiet cul de sac location Ardley Close is a perfect first time but or investment opportunity. Ardley Close will particularly appeal to people looking to put their own stamp on a property. The property is situated in walking distance to Dudley Town Centre that also has a bus station. Buffery Park is in close proximity together with some local shops at nearby Dixons Green. The property comprises of: Entrance porch, lounge/diner, kitchen/diner, three spacious bedrooms, family shower room, double glazing, front and rear garden and a garage in a separate block. The property also benefits from no upward chain.

EPC: E

Netherton Office Offers Around **£84,995**

3 bed Yew Tree Lane, ROWLEY REGIS

NEW PRICE

This is a great opportunity to purchase a well maintained, modern, three bedroom detached family home. Being situated in a popular residential location close to local schools, amenities and road links makes it an excellent property for couples and families alike. The property is approached via a driveway to the front leading to entrance hall, having access to the first floor accommodation and door leading to: Lounge with archway to dining room and door leading to Kitchen, having under stairs storage and door to rear garden. The first floor comprises of three good size bedrooms, one with an en-suite and family bathroom.

EPC: D

Netherton Office Offers Over **£170,000**

3 bed Griffin Street, NETHERTON

NEW PRICE

An opportunity to purchase a deceptively spacious and well maintained three bedroom modern semi detached family home conveniently situated just a short walk away from the local amenities of Netherton village, schools and road links. The property is also within good access of Merry Hill Centre. There is accommodation to comprise of large entrance hall, lounge, CONSERVATORY, newly fitted kitchen/diner, three great sized bedrooms, family bathroom, double glazing and gas central heating with recently fitted boiler, garage and drive to the front, good sized rear garden housing a brick built out building and summerhouse. Available with NO UPWARD CHAIN, a viewing is highly recommended to appreciate the size of accommodation on offer.

EPC: E

Netherton Office Offers Around **£135,000**

2 bed Ashes Road, OLDBURY

NEW PRICE

Wow! This house offers an abundance of accommodation for the money, with three reception rooms and two double bedrooms, one with en-suite toilet. The property is in great condition generally and has double glazing and gas central heating. The back garden must be over 100m long and is well landscaped. This is a fantastic location within just a few minutes drive of Junction 2 of the M5 and is within walking distance of Rowley Regis Train Station with routes in to Birmingham and Wolverhampton! Available with No Upward Chain, an early viewing really will be essential to avoid disappointment.

EPC: E

Netherton Office Offers Around **£83,000**

3 bed Bell End, ROWLEY REGIS

NEW PRICE

STAP! UP! NOW! HERE! SHOWS THREE BEDROOMS! This lovely home presented in a high standard throughout having attractive lounge leading onto conservatory, fitted kitchen, three DOUBLE bedrooms, en-suite bathroom, guest bathroom and garage. With block paved driveway at front for several vehicles, the double glazed and centrally heated accommodation is a viewing is strongly recommended. An added benefit of this apartment is the high energy efficient rating of C, which means lower bills for prospective tenants! The property is located within the 15 minute drive to Junction 2 of the M5 and within just a 10 minute walk from Rowley Regis Train Station. *Many of our properties are subject to a market.

EPC: C

Netherton Office Offers Around **£169,950**

3 bed Abingdon Road, NETHERTON

Located on the popular "Pepperfields Estate", this property offers well presented accommodation to suit first time buyers and families alike. There is a block paved driveway to the front and a garage to the rear. Being offered with no upward chain so you could move in really quickly! Within walking distance of shops, amenities and schools along with being located just a short walk from bus stops, an early viewing of this three bedroom home is strongly recommended!

EPC: E

Netherton Office Offers Over **£120,000**

3 bed Colley Lane, HALESOWEN

IMMACULATE HOME WITH ACCOMMODATION OVER THREE FLOORS WITH SEPARATE GARAGE AND PARKING! Originally used as the show home this spacious family home is finished to a high standard. With THREE DOUBLE BEDROOMS, two of which have en-suite shower rooms, modern fitted kitchen with Bosch appliances, family bathroom, lounge and separate garage. Great location for shops, amenities and public transport and within walking distance to Cradley Heath Train Station. Viewing is highly recommended to fully appreciate this incredibly spacious property available with No Upward Chain and the remainder of the NHBC warranty.

EPC: C

Netherton Office Offers Around **£154,950**

4 bed Coppice Lane, QUARRY BANK

Astounding blend of Victorian style and contemporary modern convenience, this immaculately presented property has been lovingly restored and brought into the 21st century while retaining the original character. You'll enjoy a short walk to the Merry Hill and all the restaurants and shops that has to offer. Available with no upward chain this spacious Victorian home has been completely modernised and double glazed accommodation comprising of an entrance porch, entrance hall, lounge, dining room, breakfast room, three bedrooms and a separate garage. The property is also within walking distance of the local amenities of Netherton village, schools and road links. This is also a half height site, which would make a perfect site for a new development. The property has a double fronted driveway, gated access and a private garden to the rear. Viewing is highly recommended to appreciate the size of accommodation on offer.

EPC: D

Netherton Office Offers Around **£179,950**

3 bed Lodgefield Road, HALESOWEN

EPC: D

We are pleased to offer this three bedroom detached family home located in the sought after 'Lodgefield Estate' in Halesowen close to local schools, amenities and road links and with the added benefit of being just a 10 minute walk from Old Hill Train Station. This is an excellent opportunity for families and couples alike. The property comprises of: hallway, lounge, conservatory, newly fitted kitchen with utility area, downstairs w.c., three bedrooms and newly fitted bathroom. To the front is a block paved driveway for at least three cars and a garage. The property is gas centrally heated and double glazed. A viewing is highly recommended to appreciate the standard of accommodation on offer.

EPC: D

Netherton Office **£185,000**

2 bed Moncrieffe Close, DUDLEY

EPC: C

IDEAL BUY FOR FIRST TIME BUYER OR INVESTOR ALIKE! This ground floor flat offers TWO DOUBLE BEDROOMS, ideal for those looking to share. All of the accommodation is really well presented so that you could move straight in! Moncrieffe Close is located within walking distance to Dudley Town Centre and Bus Station and has the added benefit of being a short drive from Junction 2 of the M5 Motorway - perfect for commuters! The apartment comprises of: Entrance hall, lounge, modern fitted kitchen, two double bedrooms, immaculate bathroom, double glazing and allocated parking space.

EPC: C

Netherton Office Offers Around **£75,000**

3 bed New Village, DUDLEY WOOD

EPC: F

Great opportunity to acquire a three bedroom semi detached family home in need of refurbishment situated in the popular residential location of Dudley Wood. This is a sought after area due to the close proximity to local schools and amenities and the property is ideal for families and couples alike. Internally there is a partially double glazed accommodation in need of a certain touch to complete it. Entrance hall, two reception rooms, Kitchen, downstairs w.c., three bedrooms and family bathroom. Having the added benefit of double glazing where specified, easy way to the front for a couple of cars, rear garden housing a detached garage/porch. A viewing is recommended to fully appreciate the accommodation and to see how you can put your stamp on the great home! NO UPWARD CHAIN.

EPC: F

Netherton Office Offers Over **£125,000**

3 bed Quarry Road, DUDLEY WOOD

EPC: D

We are delighted to offer for sale this immaculately presented and much improved three floor detached family home situated in the much sought after location of Dudley Wood and situated on this excellent sized plot with good sized accommodation to comprise of: Entrance hallway, three reception rooms, study, well appointed bathroom four, downstairs w.c., modern kitchen with utility area and to the first floor there are three good sized bedrooms and a beautifully refitted bathroom. The property also benefits from 'in out' gated driveway with ample off road parking, gas central heating and double glazing, two separate garages and excellent sized landscaped rear garden. This property really must be viewed to be appreciated.

EPC: D

Netherton Office Offers Around **£300,000**

4 bed Tansley Hill Road, OAKHAM

EPC: D

The Property Shop are pleased to offer the discerning buyer the opportunity to acquire a spacious detached house with four good sized bedrooms. This property in Tansley Hill Road is located in the sought after Oakham area of Dudley being near to public transport links and a short drive to Junction 2 of the M5. The property has been excellently presented and has the added benefit of NO UPWARD CHAIN. The property comprises of: Entrance hall, living room, dining room, three beautiful bedrooms, ground floor cloak room, four good sized bedrooms, ensuite to the master and family bathroom, double glazed and centrally heated, large front driveway, garage and rear garden. A viewing is highly recommended to appreciate the standard of accommodation on offer.

EPC: D

Netherton Office Offers Around **£294,950**



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Halesowen Sales & Lettings : 0121 585 5081

Netherton and Dudley Sales & Lettings : 01384 456 022

2 bed Mushroom Green, DUDLEY WOOD

NEW

Situated in the Hamlet of Mushroom Green which dates back to the 18th Century, The Old Cott is believed to date back to 1857 and boasts a charm that cannot be replicated and is only a short stroll from Saltwells Nature Reserve and Mouseseat Brook. The property itself has characterful accommodation that boasts many original features and comprises of: Entrance hall, lounge with original working cast iron range, kitchen, conservatory/dining room, master bedroom with en-suite, second bedroom, outhouse utility, garden WC, workshop, detached garage and beautifully tended gardens. The property really must be viewed to be fully appreciated and is available with no onward chain.

EPC: D

Netherton Office Offers Around **£289,950**

3 bed Purlin Wharf, NETHERTON

NEW

A lovely three bedroom mid-terrace property in a popular location with open views to the front. Surprisingly spacious accommodation comprises of an entrance hall, guest W.C., lounge, kitchen/diner, master bedroom with en-suite, two further bedrooms, house bathroom. Externally there is off road parking to the front and to the rear is a private garden with patio, lawn garden and flower borders. Viewing highly recommended.

EPC: D

Netherton Office Offers Around **£142,500**

3 bed Cradley Road, NETHERTON

NEW

A well proportioned three-bedroom semi detached home in a popular location that requires modernisation but offers a fantastic opportunity. Already benefiting from double glazing and gas central heating the spacious accommodation comprises of a porch, Entrance hallway, lounge, dining room, kitchen, guest WC, first floor landing, three well proportioned bedrooms, bathroom, garage. Externally there is off-road parking and low maintenance garden to the front and to the rear is a private garden mainly laid to lawn with tarmac patio. The property is available with no upward chain. Viewing highly recommended.

EPC: F

Netherton Office Offers Around **£104,950**

2 bed Church Road, NETHERTON

NEW

Situated in a convenient location this surprisingly spacious two bedroom terraced property has accommodation comprising of a dining room, lounge, kitchen, first floor landing, store room, two double bedrooms and the house bathroom. Outside the property has a relatively low maintenance garden with flower beds and fenced boundaries. The property benefits from double glazing and gas central heating.

EPC: E

Netherton Office Offers Around **£99,950**

4 bed Halesowen Road, NETHERTON

NEW

This really large and versatile detached home has a range of accommodation and offer the opportunity for a self contained 'basement apartment'. The accommodation comprises of: Entrance porch, reception hallway, seven meter long lounge, kitchen with breakfast bar, integral garage, on the first floor are three bedrooms and the large house bathroom. The lower ground floor has a utility/kitchen that has a door to the rear garden, shower room, two store rooms and a dining room/fourth bedroom. NO UPWARD CHAIN!

EPC: D

Netherton Office Offers Around **£189,950**

2 bed Blackbrook Road, NETHERTON

NEW

This surprisingly spacious two bedroom terraced property with two reception rooms has well presented accommodation comprising of: lounge, second sitting room, kitchen, rear lobby, bathroom, first floor landing, two well proportioned double bedrooms and externally there is a yard and lawn garden with fenced boundaries. The property benefits further from double glazing and gas central heating and overlooks the nature reserve to the front.

EPC: D

Netherton Office Offers Around **£99,995**

2 bed Cradley Road, NETHERTON

NEW PRICE

A lovely, two bedroom traditional semi detached home benefiting from a block paved driveway to the front, easily maintained and good sized rear garden, double glazing and central heating. Perfect for a first time buyer or small family. A buyer could come in and truly put their own stamp on this property, which is conveniently located between Netherton and Cradley Heath - you would be within walking distance of shops, schools, bus stops and within excellent access of Cradley Heath Train Station with regular links in to Birmingham City Centre. The accommodation comprises of two reception rooms, kitchen with extended dining area, ground floor shower room and two bedrooms on the first floor. No UPWARD CHAIN.

EPC: E

Netherton Office **£99,950**

2 bed Chichester Avenue, NETHERTON

NEW PRICE

An opportunity to acquire a well maintained two bedroom mid terrace property situated in a popular residential location close to local schools amenities and road links. This is an excellent opportunity for couples, families and investors alike. The property comprises of: Entrance hall, lounge diner, fitted kitchen, two bedrooms, family bathroom, gas central heating and double glazing, front and rear garden, garage in a separate block with parking space.

EPC: D

Netherton Office Offers Around **£92,500**

3 bed Queens Drive, ROWLEY REGIS

NEW PRICE

The Property Shop is pleased to offer this spacious three bedroom semi detached home. The traditional property benefits from a south facing rear garden, blocked paved driveway, large lounge, kitchen diner, utility, three bedrooms and family bathroom with whirlpool corner bath and waterfall style shower head over. Situated in a really convenient spot, within just a few minutes drive of Junction 2 of the M6 motorway. An early viewing is recommended to not miss out on this great family home and to fully appreciate the accommodation on offer.

EPC: D

Netherton Office Offers Over **£145,000**

3 bed Cradley Road, NETHERTON

EPC: E

Netherton Office Offers Around **£115,000**

First time buyers and young families should take this opportunity to purchase a three bedroom semi detached home in this convenient location near to shops, schools and amenities. The property needs some cosmetic updating so is ideal for those who want to put their own stamp on their new home. The property comprises of: Porch, entrance hall, lounge, kitchen diner, three bedrooms, family bathroom, double glazed and centrally heated, driveway and garage to the front and a private rear garden. NO UPWARD CHAIN.

3 bed Forest Road, OLDBURY

EPC: D

Netherton Office Offers Around **£229,950**

A much improved and extended three double bedroom home. Situated in this highly convenient location with excellent access to all local amenities and Birmingham City Centre. The property offers good sized accommodation to comprise of Entrance Hall, Two good sized reception rooms, Extended kitchen diner, utility room, downstairs w.c. to the first floor is three double bedrooms with en-suite to main bedroom and family bathroom. The property also benefits from being double glazed, gas centrally heated with ample off road parking, integral garage and rear garden.

3 bed Hailstone Close, ROWLEY REGIS

EPC: D

Netherton Office Offers Around **£139,950**

IDEAL FAMILY HOME! A three bedroom semi-detached home in need of cosmetic modernisation situated in this popular cul-de-sac location backing onto the golf course. The property is well positioned for access to the West Midlands road network and local town centres and benefits from accommodation to comprise of Entrance Hall, Lounge/Diner, Breakfast Kitchen, Utility Room and to the first floor is three bedrooms and a family bathroom. The property also benefits from gas central heating, secondary glazing, off road parking, landscaped front and rear gardens.

3 bed Halesowen Road, CRADLEY HEATH

EPC: D

Netherton Office Offers Around **£149,950**

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EPC: D

Netherton Office Offers Around **£110,000**

This is a very spacious four bedroom mid terrace property in this residential location with easy access to bus routes to Dudley, Halesowen and Merry Hill Centre. Shops and popular schools are nearby making this a good property for first time buyers, couples, families and investors alike. The property comprises of: entrance hall, lounge, kitchen diner, ground floor W.C., four good sized bedrooms, first floor family bathroom, single glazed windows and gas central heating, drive way to the front and rear garden. A viewing is recommended to appreciate the size of accommodation on offer.

3 bed Lantern Road, DUDLEY WOOD

EPC: D

Netherton Office Offers Invited **£219,950**

This is a MUST SEE family home with no upward chain! Located in the sought after area of Dudley Wood, this detached property has been completely renovated to a superb standard. Dudley Wood is a conveniently located popular school. Cradley Heath Train Station has routes to the Merry Hill Centre and many other local amenities. The interior features a spacious open plan living/dining area with access to a spacious entrance hallway with built in wardrobe that leads to the first floor. On the ground floor is a through lounge/dining room, conservatory, including the kitchen, shower room, and utility storage space. On the first floor are three bedrooms, the master having an en-suite shower room. There also is a laundry that leads to the front garden. The garden has a sunny aspect and has plenty more to offer including a good sized lawn. It is a truly lovely home to appreciate the accommodation on offer to the whole family home.

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CHAPEL COTTAGE OLD STOWHEATH LANE, WOLVERHAMPTON

Deceptively spacious Detached, Two Reception, Kitchen
Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas CH.
Outside: Stores, WC, Double Garage, several additional outbuildings, large plot.

Guide: £145,000 / £155,000

**VIEWING
FRIDAY & SATURDAY,
15th & 16th MAY @ 9.45 a.m.**

33 MARTIN STREET WOLVERHAMPTON

Well presented Mid Terraced, enclosed Porch, Two Reception, smart Kitchen,

large Landing, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas CH., upvc windows

long Rear Garden

Guide: £68,000 / £73,000

**VIEWING:
FRIDAY & SATURDAY,
15th & 16th MAY @ 10.45 a.m.**

1 MOUNT ROAD, PENN

Well located Detached, Porch, Hall, 26ft Through Lounge, Kitchen

Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas CH, upvc windows, off-road parking

Rear Garden approx. 120ft. depth

Guide: £130,000 / £135,000

**VIEWING:
FRIDAY & SATURDAY,
15th & 16th MAY @ 11.30 a.m.**

19 EASTCROFT ROAD PENN

Established residential area - set well back from road

Porch, Hall, Two Reception, Kitchen, Lobby, WC. Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, upvc windows,

Large 18ft. workshop area, pleasant Rear Garden with open outlook beyond

Guide: £58,000 / £63,000

**VIEWING
FRIDAY & SATURDAY,
15th & 16th MAY @ 12.15 p.m.**

19 WEST PARK COURT CONNAUGHT ROAD, WOLVERHAMPTON

Conveniently yet discreetly situated Ground Floor Flat,

Hall with fitted cupboards, Lounge overlooking grounds, Kitchen,

Two Bedrooms, Shower Room, Gas CH., upvc windows, Garage

Guide: £58,000 / £63,000

**VIEWING
FRIDAY & SATURDAY,
15th & 16th MAY @ 1.00 p.m.**

GOSPEL END, SEDGLEY

Excellent Workshop / Storage Unit, approx. 1,400 sq. ft. (14'6" to eaves)

Steel truss framed unit built of brick with profiled clad upper section, pitched roof with lights, roller shutter to 14' - Freehold

Guide: £18,000 / £23,000

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PARADE OF LOCK-UP GARAGES

r/o 19-29 MARNEL DRIVE,
WOLVERHAMPTON

Parade of 16 + two additional parking spaces

15 currently let producing £3,888 p.a.

Potential gross income £4,176

Guide: £48,000 / £53,000

BUILDING LAND WITH PLANNING PERMISSION

r/o 44-48 GOLDTHORN HILL,
WOLVERHAMPTON.

Rectangular Site currently having a parade of 8 Lock-Up Garages.

Planning Permission granted for erection of Four Flats - three 2 bed + one 3 bed / 2 bath

Guide: £70,000 / £80,000

PARCEL OF FREEHOLD LAND

31 UPPER VILLIERS STREET,
WOLVERHAMPTON

Formerly the site of a property - an area of open land having frontage of 42ft approx. to Upper Villiers Street - estimated site area of 500 sq. yds. or thereabouts

Guide: £15,000 / £20,000

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Guide: £23,000 / £28,000

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New SEAT Alhambra – intelligent, innovative

By James Parker

SEAT is continuing its product offensive with the new generation of its Alhambra. The intelligent and versatile MPV is up to 15 per cent more fuel efficient thanks to its new engines and even more dynamic thanks to increased power output.

The Alhambra remains at the very forefront of its class with new comfort and assistance systems, as well as innovative connectivity and infotainment offerings. The new Alhambra will arrive at dealerships this summer, with UK pre-ordering starting at the end of May.

"Alhambra has seen a year of record sales in 2014. Innovation, driving fun, utility and safety are the keywords for the new-generation Alhambra, making it the perfect partner for an active lifestyle," says Jürgen Stackmann, chairman of the executive committee SEAT, S.A. "Its compelling concept combines the very best functionality and state-of-the-art technology with an excellent standard of quality and workmanship. Plus, in true SEAT fashion, it offers incredible value for money."

The line-up of petrol and diesel engines has been completely redeveloped. Each powertrain fulfils the stringent Euro 6 emissions standard. The turbocharged direct-injection units are also up to 15 per cent more fuel efficient. Powered by the 2.0 TDI 150 PS for instance, the New Alhambra's fuel consumption is an impressive 57.6 mpg, with 130 grams of CO2 per km.

Forefront

In the UK, the 2.0 TDI engines will be offered with 150 PS and 184 PS (torque 380 Nm). A 1.4 TSI petrol engine delivering 150 PS also joins the fold.

"The Alhambra stays at the very forefront with its further improved fuel consumption and emissions figures. With its new technologies, it provides the best possible combination of dynamic driving fun and excellent comfort," says Dr. Matthias Rabe, SEAT executive vice president for research and development.

All engines can be combined with the DSG dual-clutch automatic transmission, which in its latest generation also boasts a fuel-saving coasting function. As soon as the driver lifts off the accelerator, the Alhambra runs with the engine decoupled.

The new Alhambra comes with a new generation of SEAT Easy Connect infotainment systems. These include high-resolution touchscreen displays and the very latest processors for much faster booting and rapid route calculation, offering a completely new level of connectivity too.

The multi-collision brake system is also standard equipment in the New Alhambra. In the event that the driver can no longer intervene following an accident, it initiates automatic braking to avoid a secondary collision. New to the line-up is the Blind-Spot Sensor, which warns of unseen vehicles when changing lane. Also new in the Alhambra is DCC (Dynamic Chassis Control). The system regulates the damper valves in a matter of milliseconds to adapt the vehicle characteristics to the exact driving situation - whether it's supreme comfort or a sportier drive. The new massage seats also deliver an exceptionally high level of long-distance comfort.

The Alhambra's design has been subtly updated. New rear lights with LED technology display SEAT's distinctive light signature, which underscores its family connections, as do the new brand logo set into the modified front grille and the new wheel designs. The interior comes with new trim colours, the steering wheel design is taken from the SEAT Leon and some of the control elements have been redesigned. The keyless entry and start system is another ease of use feature.



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Revolutionary step for Audi

Already at the forefront of diesel technology with its current production cars, Audi is claiming a revolutionary step towards carbon-neutral cars after creating a new type of diesel from water and carbon dioxide.

Using renewable energy sources such as wind, wave and solar

power, the water is split into oxygen and hydrogen.

The hydrogen is then mixed with carbon monoxide, harvested from carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, and under high pressure and temperatures the two react to create crude.

This can then be refined and mixed with conventional diesel or used on its own. According to test results, it is also more efficient than conventional

diesel, with 70 per cent of its stored energy available.

The fuel is being produced by Sunfire in Dresden in collaboration with Audi, the only downside being that only 160 litres are being produced per day. However there are plans for a larger factory and once viable production levels have been achieved it could sell to the public for less than the current cost of regular diesel fuel.

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Vauxhall Corsa VXR now better than ever

By Matt Joy

The current generation Corsa received a very comprehensive update late last year, with a refreshed exterior, new cabin, engines and suspension transforming the baby Vauxhall into a real contender in the marketplace. Now there's the hot VXR model to crown the range.

It benefits from all the same updates as the standard car with a few more to boot. The 1.6-litre turbo-charged engine returns but with a little more power and torque, the suspension now uses clever two-stage dampers for less roll with a decent ride and there's even a performance pack option that adds a limited-slip differential, even bigger brakes and its own suspension settings.

You can't have a hot hatch without the visual enhancements to show for it, and the Corsa VXR isn't shy about it either.

There are 18in alloy wheels, side skirts, a rear spoiler and a deep front bumper, as well as a 'nostril' on the bonnet to help feed the hungry engine.

It's a very colour-sensitive car; the eye-catching Grass-hopper Green probably wouldn't be the first choice for everyone, but it looks suitably aggressive.

The Corsa VXR is a genuinely small car, but is still practical enough despite the hike in performance. The adoption of Recaro seats for the front occupants means legroom in the rear is fractionally reduced, but it's perfectly acceptable for a car in this class.

Three-door only means getting into the back requires a little effort, but there's useful storage in the cabin and 285 litres in the boot with the seats in position.

Clever

The first surprise you get when you drive away in the Corsa VXR is that your bones aren't rattled by a harsh ride. It's firm of course, but those clever dampers do a fine job and when driven normally it is perfectly liveable; refined, quiet and generally well-behaved.

Press a little harder and the VXR reveals the other side to its personality. Go for the Performance Pack and the limited-slip differential has a big effect on how it behaves, allowing you to power out of corners with the front wheels working hard, although it requires a firm hand.

Regardless of the version you pick, there's no doubt that the Corsa VXR is enormous fun.

The engine is keen and responsive, the brakes reassuring and the handling sweet; there's even a two-stage ESP system which allows you freedom to play with the reassurance of a safety net.

The Corsa VXR can appeal to the head as well as the heart. The standard equipment list is generous – the Recaro seats, IntelliLink infotainment screen, heated windscreen, cruise control, air conditioning and alarm are all standard, while the Performance Pack adds the bigger brakes,

Drexler differential, retuned dampers and stickier tyres for £2,400. It's also more than £1,000 cheaper than the outgoing model.

There's an obvious market for the Corsa VXR with young enthusiasts who will love its performance and handling, combined with an achievable price tag, but it might also find a few fans amongst the older generation who want a small car with a good specification and a useful turn of speed.

It can still behave like a shopping cart when required, but just happens to be impressively fast too.

This car summed up in a single word: Concentrated.

If this car was a: Wild animal, it would definitely be a weasel; relatively small and cute but powerful with a serious bite.

TESTED

Vauxhall Corsa VXR, £17,995 (£20,395 with Performance Pack)

Engine: 1.6-litre unit producing 202bhp and 207lb/ft of torque

Transmission: Six-speed manual gearbox driving the front wheels

Top Speed: 143mph

0-60mph: 6.5 seconds

Economy: 37.7mpg combined
174g/km of CO2





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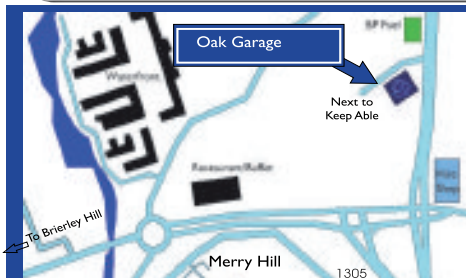
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Subaru's Outback is very smart combination

By Iain Dooley

If you're not a fully paid up member of the SUV club but still need to combine refinement with rugged driving ability, Subaru's new Outback crossover might be the best 4x4 for you.

Look past the Outback's modest visual updates and there's clear evidence that Subaru has been busy making its crossover-style wagon more competitive. The Japanese firm has made a number of welcome tweaks to the driving experience, with changes to the car's steering and suspension, resulting in sharper and more engaging on-road behaviour.

Subaru has also been busy in the Outback's cabin, as the overall ambience has been improved thanks to a significant uplift in quality.

New trim materials, a new fascia and seats help boost the car's premium class credentials. And alongside revised engines, Subaru is rolling out a suite of trick active safety measures, including an auto brake function, intelligent cruise control and a lane departure warning system.

Durable

Admired among the Subaru faithful for its no-nonsense personality, practical cabin and easy-on-the-eye looks, the Outback offers an interesting blend of (almost) go-anywhere abilities, plus durable mechanicals. This revised Outback is closer to its European rivals in the refinement and quality departments than ever before, although it remains a niche consideration for most buyers.

The Outback's generous size cabin ensures that all occupants benefit from a decent amount of head and legroom – especially in the back. Oddment space in the cabin is also good, while the car's boot is large enough to cope with the demands of most owners.

Thanks to the Outback's elevated ride height, cabin entry and loading, the boot is made that bit easier, too. And it wouldn't be right to omit reference to the car's 4x4 system, which is likely to be just as useful in the dry as in the wet.

As part of the Outback's update programme Subaru's engineers have made some welcome improvements under the car's skin.

Tweaks to refine how the Outback behaves on the road have resulted in a more engaging and refined driving experience, while the diesel-CVT auto combination proves to be a smooth and predictable combination. Factor in all-wheel drive and the Outback is a robust, all-weather package that's also brisk, yet imparts a high level of confidence and security.

Protect

Aside from the basic act of driving, Subaru has pushed the boat out with an all-singing, all-dancing active safety package, which combines intelligent cruise control, lane departure warning and an auto brake function to better protect you from the outside world than many of the Outback's pricier rivals.

No longer a cheap and cheerful alternative for rough and ready farmers, Subaru's Outback delivers a high level of refinement, comfort and practicality on a par with its premium European rivals.

Although well equipped in standard trim, you'll need to pick an auto transmission car if you want to benefit from Subaru's trick active safety package. Furthermore, diesel remains the smart choice if you want to reduce your tax and fuel outlay.

If the current crop of fashion-led SUVs bring you out in a rash, Subaru's polished, yet no-nonsense Outback offers a good blend of versatility, useful technology, all-weather practicality and understated style. It's not the last word in sporty handling, but it'll likely be more helpful when the roads are soaked or you need to tow a trailer than the latest soft-roader.

This car summed up in a single word: Loyal. If this car was a Dog, it would be the loyal, willing and able family Labrador.

TESTED

Subaru Outback 2.0D SE Premium Lineartronic, £32,995

Engine: 2.0-litre diesel unit producing 150bhp

Transmission: CVT auto driving all four wheels

Performance: Top speed 124mph, 0-62mph in 9.9 seconds

Economy: 46.3mpg combined

Emissions: 159g/km of CO2

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Captain on a duck but Hales win through

SKIPPER Faisal Shahid was in a jubilant mood after leading Halesowen to their first win of the season over Old Elizabethans at the weekend – despite his own batting disappointment.

Shahid suffered a duck in only the second ball of the Halesowen innings – but the rest of his team rallied well to bounce back from two successive defeats.

He said: "Batting was very awkward at the start and it was definitely a toss to win."

Halesowen were wobbling at 30-3 early on, but the innings was steadied by Zain Shahid (29) and Will Barrett (45).

The fall of Shahid's wicket with the score on 75-4 sent Wes Griffiths in to join Barrett who then fell to an excellent catch on the deep square leg boundary, by Booth off the bowling of OE's South African overseas star Johann Smit, just when he was threatening to run riot.

Griffiths was then joined at the wicket by 15 year old Juhar Johal and took on the senior role in their partnership of 66 with some fine hitting until he too was caught in the deep by Booth for 44 this time off the bowling of Bastable.

The star of the show, however, was Johal who made an unbeaten half century in good time in only his second appearance for the first XI. His 54 not out, assisted by Dan Jeavons (22 no) enabled Halesowen to set a very respectable 232-6 from their allotted 50 overs.

Taking the field Dan Jeavons struck early to remove South African Smit for just 4 with the score at 16-1. Boyle and Major then put on 60 for the second wicket before Major fell to Zain Shahid for 26.

Sam slugs his way to the title



Sam Eggington lands a punch on Joseph Lamptey

STOURBRIDGE'S Sam Eggington smashed through a Ghanaian blockade to claim his first major domestic by stoppage on the big stage.

Millions watched live on Sky Sports as 'the Savage' lifted the Commonwealth welterweight title with an impressive seventh round TKO at the weekend.

But, while great heavyweight hope Anthony Joshua encountered little resistance as he knocked out Raphael Zumbano Love in the sec-

ond round on the same bill, Eggington had to work hard.

The punch of the night, a right hand out of nowhere, flattened Love and sent us all home early.

Earlier, national champion Joseph Lamptey took a licking from Eggington but kept on kicking at the Barclaycard Arena in Birmingham, before referee Michael Alexander took action for him.

There wasn't much in the way of defences from the off in a give-one-to-take one slugfest, but Eg-

gington's blows soon started to take effect. Typically, Eggington had tasted a combination of hooks in the third round when he answered back with a hammer of a right hand, forcing Lamptey onto the back foot.

A right hook bang on the button as they traded forced Alexander to step in, with Lamptey in real danger despite his protests.

The belt went to Eggington as he claimed the Commonwealth strap.

Villa fans breathe huge sigh of relief

Villa 1 West Ham 0

LEE Mason's final whistle at Villa Park on Saturday prompted 36,000 home supporters to let out one big collective and deafening sigh of relief.

Their team, with three wins in their last four games, are now within touching distance of Premier League safety – an achievement most would have barely dared to think possible at points in this, often tortuous, campaign.

On another weekend when the battle to survive took further twists, Villa held their nerve to ensure destiny remains very much in their hands.

Now just one victory from their final two matches, either away to Southampton on Saturday or at home to Burnley a week on Sunday, will be sufficient to confirm top flight status.

Even a pair of defeats would require Hull City to record improbable results in their final two fixtures for Villa to drop.

Tim Sherwood will rightly take most of the credit for the turnaround he has produced in just three short months at the helm.

Grimaced

But who would have picked Tom Cleverley to be one of the other main heroes? The on-loan Manchester United midfielder, who grimaced his way through the opening six months of the season, netted his third goal in as many games and for the second successive week was Villa's match-winner.

His 31st minute strike earned a victory which, while more than deserved, could never quite be described as comfortable considering what was at stake.

Sherwood's post-match talk of an England recall for the midfielder seemed premature – but only slightly. Cleverley was a thorn in the Hamers' side all afternoon, full of energy and desire. Twice he forced visiting keeper Adrian into smart saves and looked eager to break into the box whenever the chance arose.

Together with Delph, he helped Villa dominate the opening half.

The pressure made an opener for the hosts feel inevitable Cleverley side-footed home.

Terrific triple trophy triumph



Stourbridge Rugby Club coaches and junior players celebrate their impressive trophy hat-trick

YOUNG Stourbridge Rugby Club players have won a triple trophy haul at an international show-down.

The club's under-nines, 10s and 11s were unbeaten champions at the International Mini-Rugby Series, held at the Chichester High School for Boys.

Teams from the UK and France were involved in the two-day tournament.

Stourbridge RFC mini and junior section vice-chairman and U-9s coach Tom Skinner said: "I felt the boys got their reward for all their dedication and efforts throughout the season."

"We witnessed some outstanding rugby played in the right spirit. All the teams showed a solid defence and attacking maturity above their years."

"They can all enjoy the summer and look forward to next season with real optimism."

Stourbridge's players mixed miserly defence with powerful attacking play to claim their victories, all three teams remaining undefeated.

Skinner added: "Sportsmanship was evident. One thing that was really pleasing to see was our different age-groups all supporting each other."

Long's reign comes to an end for the Tivs

OUTGOING Tivdale boss Ian Long says he is devastated at leaving the Beeches but admitted he and his coaching staff were left with little choice.

Long's two-year stint with the club will come to an end after they attempt to defend their JW Hunt title against Stone Old Alleynians at Molineux next Thursday.

And the former-Tipton Town manager revealed the budget deficit was the ultimate reason behind his resignation. Long said: "First things first, the club comes first, and they approached us explaining that the club were in financial trouble."

"We learned that the playing budget would be cut in half."

"That is simply not a competitive budget at this level. We managed to finish eighth in our first season in the Evo-Stik Division One South – with the smallest budget."

"But I'm gutted, the whole coaching staff (who all resigned alongside Long) are devastated, leaving was the last thing we wanted to do. The players have done an absolutely superb job this season, proven themselves at this level and for them to take an even further significant playing cut would be unacceptable – I just couldn't bring myself to do that."

The boss, affectionately known as 'Pee Wee' by his players, said his tenure has been far from dull.

"It's been a busy two years," he said.

"I've never experienced anything like the spirit, relationship and togetherness here, in my whole time in football. None of them are here for the money, they could've gone last season for higher offers."

Truck hire drives in to rescue Neale

CRADLEY reserve Michael Neale has seen his season saved by Rochdale van rental company Rentruck.

Neale, who has enjoyed a promising start to the campaign with the Heathens, was hit by a major problem with his own transport recently, with the cost of repairs for a breakdown putting his campaign in jeopardy.

He said: "I noticed the van was getting hot driving to Kent. Unfortunately by the time I realised, I'd cooked the engine, blown the head gasket and probably warped the head!"

"I'm really grateful to Rentruck for stepping in to help me out. I was worrying what I was going to do and this is a major weight off my mind."

"I'm enjoying my riding but off track issues really can mess with your head!"

Support Pulis on transfers, says Joleon

JOLEON LESCOTT hopes Tony Pulis will be backed in the transfer market this summer to help Albion push on next season.

The Baggies' Premier League safety was confirmed by Saturday's 1-1 draw at Newcastle.

Lescott admits they must now aim higher after a season spent battling against the drop and hopes the head coach will be able to bring in the targets he wants to improve the squad.

"We want to progress," said the centre-back. "That is the aim for every team in the Premier League, no matter what you have achieved or what you haven't achieved, you want to progress and we are no different."

"I'm sure the manager has ideas for next season and hopefully the club back him and we can progress."

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Cleverley is open to Villa offers

TOM CLEVERLEY says he would be open to signing a permanent deal at Villa this summer.

Boss Tim Sherwood has made no secret of his desire to keep the on-loan Manchester United midfielder when his current contract at Old Trafford expires next month.

And Cleverley, who scored his third goal in as many games in Saturday's crucial 1-0 win over West Ham, is also keen to talk after admitting he is happy at Villa Park. "I think first and foremost you have to be playing at a club where you fit in," said the 25-year-old.

"Where you're playing in the position where you want to play and where you like the manager, the lads – this club ticks those boxes."

"We'll just see what happens. First, the club have got to offer me something. Those talks haven't taken place yet. We're just concentrating on the football on the pitch at moment."

"Long may that continue if we keep on winning games."

"I don't concentrate on these things too much. I just know my contract runs out on June 30 at Man United, that's my position."

Cleverley is also attracting interest from the likes of Everton and on the continent but he insists money won't be the only factor when it comes to choosing a new club.

"I don't think any Premier League players are going to be short of a quid or two," he said.

"You have just got to be happy first of all and I am at this club, so let's see where we go from there."

Sherwood was effusive in his praise of Cleverley after his goal put Villa within touching distance of safety.

Nicholls comes in as winner of 10k run in under 35mins

THE DK 10k road race, which had more than 640 finishers, saw Wolverhampton's Phil Nicholls an winner, but Dudley and Stourbridge Harriers runners where well-placed with Ian Mansell third in 34.51.

Dave Nation had a good run for eighth with 35.20, as under-17 Elliot Jones came in an excellent 23rd in 38.01. Darrell Bodin was 52nd in 40.57, another under-17 Ashleigh Bently 55th in 41.02 and Stacey Skitt finished 139th in 45.55.

With track season under way Dash athletes have been busy in numerous track leagues, with Ben Tuka-Noka getting off to a winning start in the UKA under-20 age group league, winning the 100m in 11.0 and then joining Ryan Lowe, Jamal Chambers and Kundai Matukwa to set a club record for the 4 x 100 relay.

The senior team in the midland league saw Richard Woodhall win all four throwing events as Joe Smith taking the same B events. Emily Horne took the 100, 200 and the Long Jump. Emma Douras won the 100 hurdles, Natalie Stinton the 400 hurdles and Emma Goulding the triple jump.

Perks to battle on through injury

CRADLEY ace Ellis Perks has vowed to race on – despite suffering with a knee injury.

Perks has revealed the full extent of the damage, but insists he's no quitter and wants to help the Heathens push for a third straight league title.

Despite remaining far from fully fit, Perks is hoping his time on the sidelines means his knee will be able to withstand the rest of the season.

Having made the lengthy trip from Australia for his first full season in British racing, Perks is determined to ensure injury does not derail his campaign.

Speedway

And with Cradley chasing an unprecedented third successive National League title, he will continue to fight on in pursuit of glory.

Said Perks: "When I was riding over here towards the end of last season I had a crash and ruptured two ligaments in my left knee."

"I gave them as long as I could to heal, but when I had a couple of incidents riding for Cradley at Perry Barr and then at Kent it upset it again."

"I decided to take a couple of weeks off to try

and let it heal a bit so it won't affect me too much and I can get back to top form again."

"We've got a really good chance of winning the title this season, so I'd rather try and push through the pain barrier to make sure we go all the way."

"It's not ideal, but I want to keep on going and try and help Cradley win the title again."

"I feel much better after having a bit of a break, so hopefully I can come back and starting scoring loads of points again at reserve."

"I've had some really good meetings for Cradley so far, so I hope I can have more of the same over the rest of the season."

ALBION FANS WANT MORE

Newcastle 1 Albion 1

AFTER underlining his credentials as a top-flight firefighter par excellence, Tony Pulis must now convince Baggies fans he is the man to shape the future of their club.

Despite his clear and obvious knack for producing winning teams in the Premier League, the Welshman might well find quite a few supporters take some persuading.

The former Stoke and Crystal Palace boss is not only the latest victim of two seasons of drudgery, he is the man charged with ending it. It is a serious task for a serious man, and it is one that will take some serious changes.

Saturday brought the latest chapter of a story that has given Albion fans precious little to shout about for two years. A point at Newcastle was solid, hard-earned and valuable. But it wasn't thrilling.

Remarkable

In fact, it has rarely been so since the remarkable 5-5 draw in Sir Alex Ferguson's final game as a manager marked the end of Steve Clarke's first season in charge at The Hawthorns.

The rest of the Scot's reign was tedious as his team scrapped away for points.

Pepe Mel spoke of swashbuckling football but failed to deliver it as players questioned his methods and the Spaniard buckled under the pressure.

Alan Irvine never managed to back up his oft-repeated claim to be a footballing purist with a team to match.

And Pulis – a man whose style of play at Stoke earned him regular criticism – has been unable to buck the trend.

In fact, safety-first has been the latest Baggies boss's preferred modus operandi, and on Saturday the ends absolutely justified the means as a team who looked under serious threat of the drop when he took over in January made sure of Premier League survival mathematically with two fixtures to spare.

The first half was a dreadful spectacle with Albion having the only genuine chance in the



Tim Krul of Newcastle United makes a diving save from both Saido Berahino and Chris Brunt

opening half-hour. That fell to Craig Dawson, who rose highest to meet an early Craig Gardner corner and send a thudding header against the post, with Youssouf Mulumbu's follow-up charged down.

The hosts went close just before the half-hour when Moussa Sissoko's effort was cleared off the line by Joleon Lescott after the forward's initial effort had struck Jonas Olsson.

But it was the Baggies who went ahead on 32 minutes when Jonas Gutierrez fouled Dawson and Gardner's free-kick was headed home perfectly by Anichebe.

The lead lasted just nine minutes, however,

before some sloppy defending handed the home side an equaliser.

The Baggies stood still and failed to clear a Taylor free-kick, allowing Ayoze Perez to fire home from 15 yards.

The second half brought a little more end-to-end action and just moments after the restart a big chance went begging for the Baggies.

Anichebe did well to hold the ball up and feed Darren Fletcher, whose left-wing cross found Gardner arriving at the far post.

But the midfielder fired wide of the target.

The final whistle brought with it some warm embraces among the Baggies players.

Old Hales grab North Mids Cup

Old Halesonians 52 Whitchurch 6

OLD HALESONIANS won the North Midlands Cup for the first time in their history with a crushing 52-6 win over past winners Whitchurch in the final at Dudley Kingswinford.

Old Hales won the North Midlands Shield eight years ago in Gary Cox's first season as their director of rugby and they delivered the former Moseley hooker the senior trophy in their first appearance in the cup final.

As the higher-ranked club Old Hales started as firm pre-match favourites and they justified that by running in eight tries, three of them scored by pacy right wing Luke Smith.

"It's a big moment for the club, it's our first senior cup final, we won the Shield when I first came eight years ago so this is a proud moment," Cox said.

"I'm pleased that we put them to the sword and we didn't win 10-9 like some of the other finals."

Smith's first try was the middle of three scored by Old Halesonians in a nine minute period just before half time with his fellow wing Warren Oliver also getting in on the act.

Matt Davies pulled back three points for Whitchurch with another penalty just before half time but Oliver and back row forward Loz Breeze crossed in the opening minutes of the second half to put the game beyond doubt.

Smith went over for his second from a short side move and brought up Old Halesonians' half century when he went over from long range to complete his hat-trick.

Bridgnorth completed a hat-trick of wins in the North Midlands Shield by holding off Kidderminster Carolians' challenge to clinch an 18-13 win.

Villa expecting to sell last of tickets

VILLA expect eager fans to snap up the last of the club's 25,000 FA Cup Final tickets this week.

The club has announced the last of its Wembley allocation for the May 30 clash with Arsenal is expected to sell out as the latest tier of sales reaches supporters with a booking history of attending seven or more matches this season.

They will be available from the club's ticket office at Villa Park, online, via the telephone hotline but will not be for sale at the club's store in Birmingham city centre.

Villa will make a further announcement if there are any tickets remaining at the end of Wednesday's sales window.

★★★

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